FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-239
Wednesday
12 December 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-239 CONTENTS 12 December 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Issues Statement on Intifadah *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of 'Arafat's Intifadah Anniversary Message *[Baghdad VOP]* 1
Abu-Sharif Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel *[London AL-TADAMUN 10 Dec]* 4
Agreement With U.S. Termed 'Very Difficult' *[Amman Radio]* 6
Hawatimah Assesses Intifadah, Gulf Developments *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid Leaves To Start Middle East Tour *[APS]* 9
Hamrouche Government Wins Vote of Confidence *[Algiers Radio]* 9

Egypt

Sidqi, Syrian Prime Minister Sign Communique *[MENA]* 9
Syrian Prime Minister Departs *[MENA]* 9
Kuwaiti Oil Minister Views Investment in Egypt *[AL-AHRAM 10 Dec]* 9
Israeli, Iraqi Human Rights Violations Examined *[MENA]* 9
Use of One Standard for All Crises Advocated *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Foreign Ministry Cited on Intifadah Anniversary *[MENA]* 11
Abu-Talib, Zairian Minister Discuss Cooperation *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Memorandum on 'Abducted' Citizens Submitted to UN *[Tripoli International]* 11
'Inhuman Acts' by U.S. in Chad Criticized *[Tripoli TV]* 11
Demonstrators in Benghazi Protest U.S. 'Piracy' *[Tripoli Radio]* 12
French Role in POW Evacuation Condemned *[Tripoli Radio]* 12

Sudan

Radio Reports Execution of Al-Nubah Citizens *[Voice of Sudan]* 12
Radio Says SPLA Victories 'Imaginary' *[National Unity Radio]* 13
Army Officer Sentenced to Death for Embezzlement *[AFP]* 13
'Arafat Attends Ceremony, Leaves Khartoum 8 Dec *[SUNA]* 13
Popular Committees Support 'Palestinian Brothers' 14
Joint Constitutional Meeting Held With Libya *[SUNA]* 14
Al-Bashir Departs for Iran 10 December *[SUNA]* 14

Tunisia

Prime Minister Addresses House of Representatives *[Tunis Radio]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Information Minister Sees No U.S. 'Retreat' *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 18
Minister Welcomes Bush Initiative on Talks *[AL-BAYAN 10 Dec]* 18
Minister: US Initiative Implies No Concessions
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 9 Dec] 18
Foreign Minister Receives UAE Officials, Others *[Riyadh TV]* 19
Egyptian Doctor Reports Plundering in Kuwait *[Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES 8 Dec]* 19
Officials Claim $64 Billion in Damages *[IRNA]* 19
Information Minister on Gulf Crisis *[MENA]* 20

Oman

Qabus Receives Visiting Kuwaiti Delegation *[Muscat TV]* 20

Qatar

Amir Receives Saudi Defense Minister *[WAKH]* 20
Minister Leaves for OPEC Meeting *[WAKH]* 21
Advisory Council Elects Speaker, Deputy Speaker *[WAKH]* 21

Saudi Arabia

Aide Says Baker Trip No Victory for Saddam *[London Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Dec]* 21
Bush Initiative 'Difficult Test' for Saddam *[Al-YAWM 2 Dec]* 22
Iraq Aims To 'Gain Time' by Delaying Baker Visit
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Dec] 23
No Date Set for Bendjedid Saudi Visit *[SPA]* 24

United Arab Emirates

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives 12 Dec *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 24
Minister Leaves With Message for Kuwaiti Amir *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 24

IRAQ

Saddam Relieves Shanshal of Defense Minister Post *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Appoints New Defense Minister *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
487 Foreign Nationals Leave Baghdad 11 Dec *[INA]* 25
155 Japanese Depart Baghdad for Bangkok *[AFP]* 25
Saddam Meets RCC Members, Information Minister *[INA]* 25
'Aziz Denounces U.S. Stand at Security Council *[INA]* 26
Ramadan Says Leadership Seeks Peace, Progress *[INA]* 26
Salih Says Gulf Part of 'Plot' Against Arabs *[INA]* 26
U.S. 'Must' Recognize Arab Rights in Talks *[INA]* 27
Jasim Says People, Army Can Deter 'Schemes' *[INA]* 27
State Will Consider Israel 'Party' To Aggression *[INA]* 27
Peace Should Safeguard State's Rights, Pride *[INA]* 28
Paper Comments on U.S. 'Double Standards' at UN *[INA]* 28
AL-THAWRAH Rejects Talks as 'Cover' for War *[INA]* 29
Paper Warns of U.S. War Under Saudi 'Cover' *[INA]* 29
Paper Comments on U.S. 'Double Standards' *[INA]* 29
Military Analyst Views U.S. War Strategy *[INA]* 30
Paper Says Next Battle Not Conventional *[INA]* 30
Spokesman Views U.S. 'Piracy' Against Libyans *[INA]* 31
Iraq-U.S. Cultural Society Calls for Peace *[INA]* 31
UN Chief's Comments on Military Action Assailed *[INA]* 31
Paper Examines 'War of Starvation' *[INA]* 31
Paper Warns Israel of 'Annihilation' *[INA]* 32

AL-'IRAQ Criticizes Ozal's Gulf Stance *[INA]* 32
AL-JUMHURIYAH on 'Destroying Aggression' *[INA]* 32
Public Security Body Plans for Nuclear Attack *[Amman Radio]* 33
Rajiv Gandhi Adviser Arrives With Saddam Message *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
    Received by Official *[INA]* 33
    Urges Dialogue on Gulf Crisis *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Japan Socialist Party Delegation Departs 9 Dec *[INA]* 33
CPCZ Leader Expresses Sympathy, Praises Initiative *[INA]* 34
Peace Organization Head Receives U.S. Delegation *[INA]* 34
Human Rights Society Calls for Lift of Siege *[INA]* 34
Medicine Shipments From Denmark Arrive *[AL-THAWRAH 9 Dec]* 34
POW's Return From Iran Via 'Special' Plane *[INA]* 34

ISRAEL

Shamir More Pleased With U.S. Relations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Shamir Meeting With Bush 'Positive,' 'Friendly' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Paper Comments on Bush-Shamir Meeting *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Dec]* 35
Levi on Readiness for Talks 'Without Preconditions' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Commentary Says Bush Move 'Bad for Israel' *[MA'ARIV 2 Dec]* 36
Contacts Reported With Iraq on Disarmament *['AL HAMISHMAR 12 Dec]* 36
Paper Says Bush 'Should Be Congratulated' on Move *['AL HAMISHMAR 2 Dec]* 37
'Technological Surprise' for Iraqis on Battlefield *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Police Uncover Galilee 'Terrorist' Squad *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Tehiya Denies Basing Platform on Arab Transfer *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Poll Shows Support Shifting From Larger Parties *[DAVAR 7 Dec]* 38
Land Prices Reduced; New Centers Approved *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Dec]* 39
Sources Say Private Arab Land Not To Be Seized *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Intifadah Extremists Said Controlling Violence *[HA'ARETZ 7 Dec]* 39
Betzelem Report Sums Up Three Years of Intifadah *[HA'ARETZ 5 Dec]* 40
Pessimism High in Territories; Gun Purchases Rise *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Commentary Analyzes Intifadah's Effect on Security *[HA'ARETZ 4 Dec]* 41
Israeli Muslims Urged Not To Make Pilgrimage *[AL-NAHAR 29 Nov]* 42
30 Kakh Members Detained After Rally, Riots *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Second Consignment of Milk Sent to USSR *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
1990 Trade Deficit Now $3.3 Billion *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Dec]* 42
Impact of Events in Lebanon Analyzed *['AL HAMISHMAR 30 Nov]* 42
Drug Traffic From Lebanon 'Significantly Curbed' *[DAVAR 7 Dec]* 45

JORDAN

U.S. Official To Cancel Search of Ships *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 11 Dec]* 46
Hasan Discusses Crisis With Soviet Official *[Amman Radio]* 46
Algerian President Arrives in Amman 11 Dec *[Amman Radio]* 46
    Information Minister's Statement *[Amman TV]* 46
    King, Algerian President Talk *[Amman TV]* 47
France, Belgium To Extend Loans to Kingdom *[Amman Radio]* 47
Central Bank Receives German, Japanese Loans *[Amman Radio]* 47
Paper Reports Losses Attributable to Gulf Crisis *[AL-DUSTUR 9 Dec]* 47
Employees Fired for Political Reasons Reinstated *[PETRA-JNA]* 47

LEBANON

Hizballah Source Explains Iqlim Al-Tuffah Hurdle *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 48
Al-Huss Receives Supreme Soviet Official 12 Dec *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Junblatt Calls for Dialogue With Phalangists *[VOM]* 48
    Sa'adah Welcomes Request *[RFL]* 49
Israeli Helicopters Raid Resistance Positions *[VOM]* 49
Customs Officials Seize Arms Bound for Armenia *[AFP]* 49

SYRIA

Al-Zu'bi on Egyptian Ties, Lebanon, Gulf *[AL-AHRAM 10 Dec]* 50
Al-Shar', U.S. Congressman Discuss Mideast *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Khaddam Meets Congressman *[SANA]* 51

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Decree Pardoning Anti-State Activities *[Kabul Radio]* 52

Bangladesh

Opposition Rejects Ershad Exile; Dhaka Protests *[AFP]* 53
Ershad Arrested, Moved Out of Residence *[AFP]* 53
Arrest of Former Ershad Minister Reported *[AFP]* 54
Soviet, Norwegian Envoys Meet Sheikh Hasina *[Dhaka Radio]* 54

India

Minister Opposes Use of Force in Gulf Crisis *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Janata Dal Hails Developments in Bangladesh *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Commentary Examines Ershad's Rise, Fall *[Delhi International]* 55
Mongolian Official Meets Commerce Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Australian High Commissioner on Trade Prospects *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Deputy Petroleum Minister Gets Additional Duties *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Minister Rules Out Petroleum Price Increase *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Minister Announces Energy Conservation Plans *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Minister Says National Plan May Be Cut *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Shekhar on Punjab Issue, Other Disturbances *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Judicial Probe of Communal Violence Demanded *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Premier Cautions Against Divisive Trends *[Delhi Radio]* 56
New Government, Police Officials Announced *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Rajiv Gandhi's Threat to Premier Assessed *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 9 Dec]* 57
Curfew in Kanpur After Violent Incidents *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Situation Updated *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Kanpur 'Tense;' Flag March in Ahmadabad *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Situation in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat Updated *[Delhi Radio]* 59
MP Demands Ouster of Andhra Pradesh Chief *[Delhi Radio]* 59
'Group' Clashes in Hyderabad Leave 13 Dead *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Army Asked To Maintain Order in Hyderabad *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Police Fire on Stone-Throwing Mob in Ahmadabad *[Delhi Radio]* 60
468 Assam Militants Arrested Up To 7 Dec *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Goa State Chief Minister, Cabinet Resign *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Punjab Akali Dal Leader Released From Jail *[Delhi Radio]* 60

Iran

President on U.S. 'Illegitimate Interests' in Gulf *[AFP]* 60
Holds Talks With Al-Bashir *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Velayati, Sudanese Foreign Minister Discuss Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Velayati Meets Libyan Islamic Call Leader *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Leaves for Turkey *[IRNA]* 62
Paper on Velayati Meeting With Gulf Counterparts *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Nov]* 63
Commentary Views Implications of Resolution 678 *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Turkey *[cross-reference]* 63
Paper Warns UK Against Creating 'New Crisis' *[IRNA]* 64
Combatant Clergy Confirm Rushdie Death Sentence *[IRNA]* 64
Paper Proposes Azeri-Armenian Mediation *[IRNA]* 64
*Underemployment, Unemployment Noticeably Up *[London KEYHAN 15 Nov]* 65

*Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delegates Rebuilding to People *[London KEYHAN 15 Nov]* 66
*War Invalids Fail To Receive Needed Attention *[London KEYHAN 15 Nov]* 66
*Amnesty Declared for Absent Conscripts *[London KEYHAN 15 Nov]* 66
*Basiji Reportedly Killed by Angry Public *[London KEYHAN 15 Nov]* 67
*Liquid Gas Exported to European Countries *[London KEYHAN 15 Nov]* 67

Nepal & Bhutan

Four Sections To Leave United Left Front *[Delhi Radio]* 67
Civil Servants Threaten To Strike on 12 Dec *[AFP]* 67
Agriculture Ministry Purged Over Scandal *[AFP]* 68
Indian Premier's Statement on Relations Hailed *[THE RISING NEPAL 21]* 68

Pakistan

Sharif Announces Sindh Development Program *[DAWN 10 Dec]* 69
Shekhar Remarks on Bilateral Ties Criticized *[THE MUSLIM 8 Dec]* 70
Prime Minister Affirms Nuclear Program Stand *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Bhutto Criticizes IJI's 'Victimization Policy' *[DAWN 9 Dec]* 71
Customs Department Probes Heroin Smuggling *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 7 Dec]* 71
Pakistan People's Party Activist Killed *[THE MUSLIM 10 Dec]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Issues Statement on Intifadah

NC1012153790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League has emphasized that the Palestinian intifadah has entered its fourth year armed with more resolution and determination to continue the struggle to attain its objectives—the termination of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

In a statement issued today, the Arab League General Secretariat said that the events during the past three years have proven that the Israeli authorities had been and are still impotent to quell or wipe out the valiant intifadah despite the acts of persecution, annihilation, detention, and other massacres. These events have demonstrated the struggling Palestinian forces' strong cohesion and solidarity in their confrontation of occupation.

The General Secretariat urged the international community and the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities and endeavor to ensure the necessary protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories so that they enjoy their right to self-determination and to set up their independent state with its capital, Jerusalem, led by the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of 'Arafat's Intifadah Anniversary Message

JN1212073890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1944 GMT 11 Dec 90

["Text" of message by "brother leader President" Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, marking "the start of the fourth year of the intifadah," addressed to the "heroic Palestinians on the national soil, in the diaspora, and in steadfast southern Lebanon"; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Without doubt we will help our apostles and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse]

O masses of the valiant popular intifadah; O courageous men, women, boys, and children, knights of the impenetrable steadfastness in every city, village, and camp in Palestine; O heroic prisoners, our hawks in prisons; O our valiant wounded; O sons of the State of Palestine on the national soil, in the diaspora, and in steadfast southern Lebanon; O struggling masses of our Arab nation. On this day of yours, the day of glory and pride for our people and our nation; on this great day of yours, O you who have forged the epic of confrontation, the epitome of the resistance; O you guardians of the holy dream, protectors of the land and homeland:

On the day marking the start of the intifadah, I address to you the greetings of jihad, the greetings of glory, and the greetings of certain victory. On this day that marks the third anniversary of the start of the blessed intifadah, we stand in reverence and deference to the souls of our heroic martyrs, marking the anniversary of our great martyr, my brother and comrade-in-arms Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], as well as the anniversaries of all heroic martyrs, the knights. We would like to address their souls saying: You who have made your dwelling amid the sincere lovers of truth and other martyrs, we salute you. The generations are emulating you. Here are our people's sons racing along the path of martyrdom, the path of the revolution, the path of the intifadah, the path of jihad, and the path of the inevitable certain victory. Those who strive in our cause, we will certainly guide them to our path: For verily God is with those who do right. [Koranic verse]

O revolutionaries at all sites of revolution and jihad; O knights, you who have forged the intifadah; O heroes within the Unified National Leadership [of the Intifadah], the strike forces, the popular committees, and various struggle frameworks and national institutions; O male and female strugglers within the ranks of the mass institutions of youth, students, women, workers, farmers, merchants, tradesmen, craftsmen, and employees; O every woman, man, young man, young woman, and child from among our new generals in our occupied homeland: Here we are nowadays turning the page of the third year of the march of the glorious intifadah with our stature taller, our souls more confident and daring, our steps steadier, our intifadah more powerful, and our banners higher.

Three years in the march of the lofty intifadah racing toward the gates of victory have passed. Three years of miraculous mass resistance and the overflowing fountain of sacrifices have passed—three years of the epic of our people which are unhesitatingly forging ahead, making unlimited sacrifices, holding out fearlessly in their positions, defying and confronting, growing and growing, fighting and achieving victories, and affirming that the intifadah is the irreversible option of life and also that the intifadah is a one-way road leading to victory.

During the past three years our people—through their revolutionary creativity, deep faith, sincere struggle, close ranks, firm national unity, and impeccable discipline—have presented to the legacy of mankind and recorded in the history of struggle and resistance an unparalleled model and a distinguished experiment, affirming their uniqueness and ability to be a source of light and inspiration for mankind's march toward freedom and a free, decent life.

The past three years have been replete with persevering militant action, the continuing revolutionary construction, the new reconstruction of our society, the embodiment of people's authority over the homeland, the establishment of the pillars of our state over our soil and homeland, beloved Palestine.

The past three years recorded an incredible ability to bear the oppression of the neo-fascists. Your pride has increased and your self-confidence and determination grew. Your challenging spirit is shining and your hands are getting stronger while facing the campaigns of killing, destruction, siege, and the wars of starvation from within and without, from both enemies and brothers. With your sacred stones, and with your faith in God, the homeland, and the cause, you have been able to challenge and face the enemy army and the herds of its settlers.

Our people remained steadfast despite everything—despite the immense sacrifices, the repeated massacres, tens of thousands of wounded, tens of thousands of detainees, and tens of thousands of people who are being pursued because of their efforts in defending the land, the principles and values; despite the starvation siege, the campaigns of destroying our fields and crops, the closure of educational centers, and the daily terror campaigns. They defended their existence, rights, and future, and became heroes. They are now advancing, realizing victories and protecting their triumphs, affirming that the initifadah is a living action, a people's will, and a path of victory. This is not only their national option inside and outside the West Bank and Gaza, as well as in all parts of Palestine, but is also their pan-Arab choice across the Arab homeland and in confronting every sinful aggressor against it or a hated occupier of it

The causes of our Arab nation are one cause. None can be separated from the other. The Gulf crisis, despite its flames and universal seriousness, could not hide our people's sacred intifadah. Indeed, this was proven by events and the firm, genuine Arab stands adopted by the noble ones in the Arab nation who have insisted on this connection among all these crises and problems, led by the Palestinian problem.

The sacred Palestinian stone is becoming a giant missile in the mujahid Arab hands so that victory can be consecrated more than ever before on the lands of the battles, in all arenas and at all levels. Here is the international consensus on the need to realize the inalienable rights of our people to achieve their freedom and self-determination, and to establish their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital, being bolstered and consecrated by everybody, leaving a small minority which harbors enmity toward our people suffering from the chill of isolation and the embarrassment of exposing their hypocrisy and the duplicity of their stands. Here the world, while on the threshold of launching a new world order, realizes that this order will neither hold nor succeed in ensuring stability and peace if it were to neglect, ignore, or attempt to overlook a basic prerequisite for the construction of this order, namely, the realization of the peoples' national rights, including our inalienable rights.

The Palestine question is the crux of issues in this Arab region; likewise it has its significance in political geography. Moreover, it has its leverage regarding the world economy and world peace. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

O sisters and brothers: During the third year of the intifadah our people have shown their ability to hold out and face all conspiracies and maneuvers by the Americans, the Israelis, and their agents. Thus the attempt to effect a division between Palestinians living inside and outside the occupied territories has been thwarted. Likewise, the attempts to overlook or circumvent the PLO have been thwarted. Thanks to its powerful presence, despite the regional events and crises, the giant intifadah confirmed this fact daily and consistently forced our people's cause on the agenda of the world conscience and the international community regardless of the difficulties involved, the numerous conspiracies hatched, and the seriousness of the mine fileds of conspirers who were terrified by this will, this firm and strong belief, and this strong position which neither bargains over principles nor sells stands at slave markets that seek to buy all honorable stands with dollars. In spite of this, we committed ourselves in the Gulf crisis to the principled position emanating from our national, pan-Arab, and religious convictions and affirmed that the only solution lies in a peaceful Arab option with an international cover. We also asserted amid the noise of threats and the clamor of war drums that international legitimacy is indivisible and that a linkage must be established among all regional issues. Despite all the critical and difficult circumstances which we have gone through, we stuck to our principled and noble positions to safeguard the Arab nation's rights, future, unity, and national security.

Here daily facts confirm once again the soundness of our course and options. We say it loud and clear that we are against the foreign military presence on Arab territory and against starving and besieging the Iraqi people, and for a peaceful Arab solution to the crisis to safeguard the rights of all and protect the dignity of all. Here the dust created by some on our positions is being cleared and the facts are being shown. Here the majority in the world repeats what we have been saying since the first day regarding an inter-Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, away from the saber-rattling of those advocating a military solution who are infatuated by delusions of occupation, domination, and plunder, including those who mistakenly and erroneously deluded themselves into believing that foreign presence is the alternative to a sound pan-Arab policy pursued on free Arab territory cleared of occupiers and usurpers.

Here we now witness an endorsement of dialogue, coupled by a clear recognition of a linkage among regional issues—the stance confirmed a few days ago by the quadripartite Baghdad summit as well as the endorsement of this by all the effective and well-intentioned forces in our Arab nation and the world. We assert that we positively view this endorsement that contains a call for resolving the Palestine question along with all regional issues. We want to see this translated into practical moves that confirm goodwill and disprove the possibilities of maneuvers and deception through steps that would show and demonstrate sincere orientations, and thus close the doors before any Israeli evasion or procrastination, or any blatant U.S. prejudice.

In line with what has been agreed on at this time, we, along with our zealous and sincere Arab brothers, strongly urge all of our Arab brothers to make every possible effort to effect a return to the realm of the unified Arab stance, the realm that would seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and crystallize an Arab position that could serve as a contribution toward the formulation of the new world order and the imposition of our perception which emanates from our pan-Arab interests and falls in line with the new changes in our contemporary world. This is important if we are to prevent the new world order from shaping up at the expense of our Arab nation and its future.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Let those fight in the cause of God who sell the life of this world for the hereafter. [part of a Koranic verse]

O heroes of the intifadah; O courageous people at all sites of struggle and jihad, you have dumbfounded the enemies over the past few weeks by the new birth, the new start of the intifadah, exacerbated the impasse which you forced on the occupation; and have widened the crack which your struggles created within the Israeli establishments.

The frantic escalation of the situation by the Zionist occupiers these days, the legalization of the killing operations, the forced deportations—especially from Jerusalem, the city of peace, in order to empty it of its citizens and Judaize it—the attacks on our Muslim and Christian holy places, the campaigns of repression against our workers, the reactivation of the war of starvation and ignorance on our people, and the immense detention campaigns are an indication of the enemy's deep impasse and proof of the failure of their plans, programs, and policies as well as evidence of the intifadah's firmness and progress.

Brothers and beloved ones. Today we stand close to the historic moment, at a close distance to the gate of victory. Within this distance, the enemy attacks increase and the darkness intensifies. Within this distance, the siege and suffering increase, but this is the moment of the truth, the moment of challenge during which our people, through their steadfastness and determination, will record fresh triumphs that will remove the last obstacles on its broad path of fire. Our people will again prove to those who believe that by starving us, imposing a financial and economic blockade on us, or escalating terror against us within the Zionist-U.S. plot they will be able to force them to their knees, that our people are the jinni that came out of the bottle of occupation to live in freedom. The Palestinian Phoenix will defy attempts at killing and beating because it has only one choice, the choice of renewable life and certain victory.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: It is the promise of God. Never does God depart from his promise but most men understand not. [Koranic verse]

Beloved brothers, struggling masses. Let the slogan of our work and the struggle in the fourth year of the intifadah be strengthening national unity, a unity that encompasses all, the mujahidin and strugglers of Fatah and Hamas, the Popular Front, the Communists, the Democratic Front, Arab front, the Popular Struggle Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and al-Jihad; a unity that would terrify the occupiers, eliminate their excuses, and block their attempts to infiltrate our ranks.

Brothers and beloved ones. You, our heroes, have proved your power to be infinite. You have shown your immense ability to undertake large-scale popular action. You have shown that your unarmed hands were able to defeat an army with the most sophisticated weapons. With the momentum of the people in the various streets and squares of towns, villages, and camps, you have been able to impose on the enemies the law of the intifadah upon the ruins of the law of occupation.

In this creative form of resistance, you have been able to win the respect of the world before their sympathy, their admiration before their sentiments. Let us increase this momentum further and let the masses go to the streets—men, women, children, and the elderly. Let the masses impose their popular authority everywhere. Let us strengthen the role of the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah by stressing full commitment to its program and absolute adherence to its instructions. This requires that we rebuild our popular committees so that all national activists enlist in their ranks. They should not be confined to groups or a certain group. They should be open to all the people in accordance with their effectiveness and abilities. Let the activities of the good-offices committees be strengthened in order to solve people's problems. Let us reactivate the committees of guardians, financing, and specialized committees and make new initiatives in the field of popular education and home economy. Let us double the operations of strike groups and forces everywhere and by all means at our disposal.

Truly God loves those who fight in His cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse] Dear strugglers, O knights of the new Arab age, O bearers of the torches of liberty in this Arab night, O our valiant detained prisoners who are overpowering those who have imprisoned you, O our heroic wounded who are more powerful than their wounds, O you stationed in steadfast southern Lebanon with your fingers on triggers while clutching embers in your palms: We are entering the fourth year of the blessed intifadah, the epitome of our people's national struggle, the greatest stages in our nation's history, and the most prominent struggle experiences for humanity. As we approach the day of freedom, we dig and pave a road for our Arab nation other than the one the enemies want for it.

The intifadah is moving in the veins of the Arab homeland. Here is the blessed stone deriving its power from the Iraqi military capability and all the capabilities of the honorable Arabs so that the process of integration would be bolstered by all Arab financial, human, and military resources and not by disputes. This should take place for a secure future and the interests of our Arab nation and the honorable and free people.

Let this new year be more fervent and explosive so that its days will be days of massive popular activity. Let every location burn with resistance and confrontation. Let the masses take action to wipe out the remains of the occupier's authority. Let your steadfastness glow, O rapacious eagles behind bars, to illuminate the path and let the perfume of your glory fill the sky of the homeland.

O you holding out in the trenches of defending the masses and the revolution in southern Lebanon and in all locations, I salute you. You are achieving integration between the internal and external fronts, between the rifle and the rock.

O sons of the Palestinian people inside and outside the homeland, the bright lights of the dawn of freedom are shining in front of us. The hour of the great joy has tolled. The moment of victory has come very close. Let us strengthen our blows; let us strengthen our steadfastness; let us entrench our unity. It is a steadfastness until victory, an intifadah until the state is realized and until the Palestinian flag flutters high above Jerusalem's minarets, church steeples, and city walls, above the first qiblah and the third holy shrine—the place where Prophet Muhammad started his nocturnal journey to heaven—and the burial place of Christ, peace be upon him.

Victory is close, dawn is very close, and on that day shall the believers rejoice—with the help of God. He helps whom He will, and He is exalted in might, most merciful. [Koranic verse]

It is a revolution until victory, until victory, until victory.

[Signed] Your brother, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]

Abu-Sharif Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel

PM1112090490 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 10 Dec 90 pp 12-14

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, special adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis on 28 November: "Bassam Abu-Sharif Tells AL-TADAMUN: 'Direct U.S.-Iraqi Dialogue Would End Crises'"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Khashanah] I asked him about the messages that President 'Arafat had conveyed that day (28 November 1990) to the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council (with the exception of the U.S. ambassador) asking their governments to set a date for an international peace conference on the Middle East and giving the Israeli occupation forces a deadline for withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He immediately replied: "We are under no illusions about the U.S. Administration's alignment with Israel. It eagerly seeks a Security Council resolution giving Iraq an ultimatum but refuses to address the question of the Israeli occupation—at least, on the same basis. That exposes its self-contradictory, two-faced policy. It has asked the PLO to hold a dialogue with the Israelis for an agreement to stop the settlements but it rejects any kind of dialogue with Iraq on the situation in Kuwait. I am confident that if a direct U.S.-Iraqi dialogue takes place, President Saddam would implement all UN resolutions relating to the issues of the region, as he announced in the 12 August initiative."

I had the following interview with Bassam Abu Sharif:

It seems that the Security Council has been unable to hold a special meeting to take practical measures for the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. What will be the next PLO move at the UN level?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO is continuing its efforts with the nonaligned and Arab states in the United Nations for a Security Council session on the situation in the occupied territories, particularly in view of the Israeli prime minister's recent statements in which he said that the land of Israel extends from the sea to the Jordan River. These statements were not only a customary rejection of UN resolutions, especially Resolution 242, but also a declaration of annexation and usurpation of these territories. This is a blow to international law and to the United Nations, which is trying to implement other Security Council resolutions relating to other areas in the Middle East, particularly the Gulf. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] A meeting was held recently between two of the main parties to the Middle East conflict—I am referring to Presidents Bush and al-Asad. According to some press reports, it was agreed not to link the Palestinian question to the Gulf crisis and to grant the problem of the Palestinian people second priority. Do you not believe that this could hinder the PLO's efforts?

[Abu-Sharif] Whether the United States likes it or not, there is a link. It is a link between similar UN resolutions relating to the same region. It is now clear to the whole world, and particularly to the world public, that the West's credibility in relation to implementation of Security Council resolutions is very suspect. While we see this mobilization of the world states for the implementation of a resolution on the Gulf, we also see that 23 years have passed since Resolution 242 was adopted, and it has still not been implemented; there is insufficient earnestness on the part of the same states to implement it. That is why I can say that, whether we like it or not, oil has for the first time become a factor in the balance relating to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242.

The Gulf crisis is undoubtedly serious and painful, but facts are facts. If we take a pragmatic view of matters, we would see that the Arab states had been unable for 23 years to use oil for the implementation of the Security Council resolution, but the Gulf crisis has now brought oil heavily into the reckoning, albeit violently and painfully.

There is now some kind of agreement among a large number of Western states that the settlement of the Palestinian question is a pressing necessity. It is feared, however, that these convictions, expressed openly in public statements, could disappear as soon as the Gulf crisis is over, especially if we take into consideration the stark facts regarding relations between Israel and some of these states, specifically the United States. Although President Bush and Secretary of State Baker are speaking of implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Palestine after a settlement of the Gulf crisis, we can see that the U.S. Administration has given Israel $1 million [as published] to build more settlements and absorb new immigrants, as well as $700 million worth of advanced and sophisticated weapons. The United States is also silent about the crimes committed by Israel and is in fact covering them up. That reinforces our conviction that unless the Arab nation, through the balance of economic powers, forces the U.S. Administration to take steps that we know it is capable of taking to force Israel to stop building settlements in Palestinian territory and to stop its crime and start leaving Palestinian territory, we fear that the tragedy of U.S. procrastination will be repeated. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] Do you not believe that such American steps to compel Israel to stop building settlements and to stop repression are unlikely now that Shamir has been invited to Washington?

[Abu-Sharif] Shamir's invitation to Washington does not mean support for Shamir. It might be—and we hope it is—a first attempt by the U.S. Administration to put pressure on the Israeli Government to stop its crimes and usurpation of territory and to pave the way to an international conference. We are certain that unless the U.S. Administration uses the means at its disposal—and they are many—to influence Israel, Shamir's position will not change. And that does not mean stopping U.S. aid to Israel.

[Khashanah] What is the Palestinian role in the attempts to promote a political solution to the Gulf crisis, excluding the military option?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO's efforts to find an Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis have not stopped. They are intensified every day. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] Did you sense from the PLO's contacts with Europe that there is an inclination to influence the U.S. position by creating some kind of uniform Western approach to the Palestinian question?

[Abu-Sharif] What we hear from the Europeans in practice is a promise that the process of a political solution to the Palestinian problem would begin as soon as the Gulf crisis is resolved. That is also what we have heard from the Americans. There is no difference, therefore, between declared positions or the nominal values of the European and U.S. positions. After our people's long experience, what is important here are the practical steps. We regard the call for an international conference as a measure of the seriousness of these states in beginning to work for a political solution to the Palestinian question. Such a call would not conflict with the assertion by Bush and the Western states that the Gulf crisis should be settled first. Calling for an international conference does not mean finding a solution; it means starting to find a solution. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] You said you heard the same thing from the Americans. From whom did you hear it in particular?

[Abu-Sharif] From President Bush who said openly that he would begin to settle the Middle East problem as soon as the Gulf crisis was over. Secretary Baker recently stated the same position in Bogota, Colombia, even more clearly when he said: "This (Palestinian) problem should not be linked to the Gulf crisis, but all Security Council resolutions must be implemented. When I say that it is important for UN credibility that all its resolutions be implemented, I do not distinguish between the resolutions on the Iraq-Kuwait crisis and other resolutions." These are significant words and, we believe, correct in principle, but we want a start on implementation—I do not say implementation—if what Baker says about UN and U.S. credibility is to be accepted by the Arabs and the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] Observers have noticed that President 'Arafat's congratulations cable to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi was not merely a routine protocol cable, as it included important political pointers and aspects. As President 'Arafat's adviser, how do you view that cable?

[Abu-Sharif] Naturally that cable and the statements before it made by President 'Arafat and other leaders were frank messages to President al-Hirawi saying that we support the unity of Lebanese territory and people, and we support Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and are willing to do everything we can to help it succeed in guaranteeing its security, also saying to President al-Hirawi that we are ready for fraternal talks on the form and substance of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and on the presence of the Palestine Liberation Army, which is not a Lebanese militia but an integral part of the entire Palestine Liberation Army found in Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. Its presence in these states is regulated through agreements between the PLO and these states. We are ready to discuss the amendment of the agreements concluded between us and the Lebanese state, or to sign a new agreement.

[Khashanah] Israel is noticeably concentrating on Jordan and making threats against it on the pretext that it is becoming an increasing threat to Israel's security. Is there any Palestinian-Jordanian coordination in facing these threats?

[Abu-Sharif] There is close coordination between us and Jordan in various aspects of Arab political action. For example, we coordinate our efforts to promote a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and to prevent war, and we coordinate our efforts to expose the Israeli enemy's crimes against our people in the occupied territory. In Jordan the Palestinians stand alongside the Jordanians to defend Jordan against any attempt by Israel to carry out its expansionist designs. Relations between President Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] and King Husayn of Jordan are positive and characterized by the highest degree of responsibility in tackling Arab issues.

[Khashanah] That means that you take the Israeli leaders' threats against Jordan seriously.

[Abu-Sharif] Naturally. The Israeli threats have been made openly; Israel's ambitions in Jordan are exposed and have been expressed by several Israeli leaders, including Sharon and Shamir. We do not rule out the possibility of such aggressive steps by Israel. We must therefore make all necessary preparations against them.

Agreement With U.S. Termed 'Very Difficult'

JN1112075190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Nasir al-Qidwah, PLO representative to the United Nations in New York, by unidentified correspondent on 11 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Nasir, do you now believe that the United States will in the final analysis approve the draft resolution along with the fixed period set for convening the international conference on peace in the Middle East?

[Al-Qidwah] After our experience in the negotiations over the past 48 hours, it seems that reaching agreement with the U.S. delegation will be very difficult. I believe that the U.S. delegation has put itself in a very difficult position and I really do not see any possibility for agreement during the coming two days. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding the other aspects of the draft resolution on protecting the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories, do you believe these measures are enough?

[Al-Qadiwah] Undoubtedly these measures do not represent our ambitions. As you know, we would like to place the occupied territories under the direct supervision of international forces sent by the Security Council. As is also known, this is not possible under the current political circumstances. We believe, however, that the other paragraphs in the resolution, should it be approved, could provide the minimum direct involvement of the Security Council in dealing with the situation in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. It could lead to a relative improvement in the day-to-day life and in providing protection to the Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

[Correspondent] On another level, does the Palestinian delegation have an alternative proposal in the United Nations should these efforts fail?

[Al-Qidwah] If these efforts fail, God forbid, we must search for other means and ways, one of which might be to resort to the General Assembly under the General Assembly resolution on union for peace. This is the resolution that authorized the General Assembly to look into issues on which the Security Council fails to reach agreement.

[Correspondent] Thank you Mr. Nasir al-Qidwah, the PLO representative to the United Nations.

Hawatimah Assesses Intifadah, Gulf Developments

JN0712145090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1221 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Salah Salamah and Kamal Tarabay; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]: The intifadah enters its fourth year today. Confrontations with the occupation forces have left scores of people killed and tens of thousands injured. In addition, Israeli suppression is being stepped up day after day. To what extent do the people of the occupied territories have the characteristics of steadfastness and endurance?

[Hawatimah] The intifadah's initiation of its fourth year provides the strongest evidence that the intifadah will remain steadfast until our people attain freedom, independence, and self-determination. Yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin said at a seminar in Tel Aviv that he is convinced that the intifadah is a true popular revolution and not merely a series of activities carried out by PLO factions. He also said that the intifadah cannot be terminated by suppressive military methods, whatever the rivers of blood, because the solution has to be political. Now I say that the intifadah is initiating its fourth year asserting that its basic, innate elements among the ranks of the people are solid, are being deepened, and are taking root daily. The intifadah is an all-out national practical response to the need to end occupation, because 23 years is enough. We find, therefore, that all strata of the Palestinian people are united against occupation in order to achieve self-determination and the independence of a national state. Also other latent elements, reflected in an economic crisis and severe social and political tensions, clearly point out that the intifadah cannot be quelled by suppressive and military methods. Consequently, the intifadah is continuing on its way to victory despite the difficulties and obstacles.

What is important now that the intifadah has entered its fourth year is that the intifadah's own tools should be developed so as to determine its hour of victory. By saying this, I mean precisely that the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah should be transformed from a coordinating body into a real staff of the intifadah, and its people as well as those of the Unified Leadership, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad should establish channels of communication among them so that all forces can unite in their struggle against occupation. By doing so we will be able to build heaven on earth—the heaven of return, self-determination, and the independent state. We do not want to quarrel with anyone over ideologies while heaven is still up there in the skies. Also, the popular committees that have been dwarfed should be transformed into the tens of thousands so as to create the structure of the people's authority to replace the apparatuses and tools of occupation. Moreover, professional bodies and unions should assume their role by establishing links with their broad popular basis so that it will be possible to mobilize all the people, especially the 180,000 Palestinian workers inside Israeli institutions, for a comprehensive strike. This means in no uncertain terms that the PLO should effect a full-blown and comprehensive change regarding the manner of contributing financially and materially to the intifadah so that the PLO will stop extending this aid to marginal individuals, personages, and institutions, and so that all this aid can be extended in full to the factions of the PLO and Hamas. By doing so, it will be possible to make 180,000 Palestinian workers go on a comprehensive strike, and thereafter to move to a new qualitative level of the intifadah; namely, the stage of complete civil disobedience against occupation.

[Salamah] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah.

[Hawatimah] Yes?

[Salamah] Colleague Kamal Tarabay is near by. He is with me, conducting this interview with you. He has another question on the intifadah.

[Tarabay] The intifadah began and continues with stones. Along with stones, however, it has begun using knives and bayonets. Israeli authorities say that the intifadah might resort to armed confrontation. Does this mean that the occupation authorities are making preparations to take further oppression measures to end the intifadah?

[Hawatimah] I believe that this is a justification by the Israeli oppression authorities advanced to pave the way for taking additional measures. They have again begun threatening to resort to collective punitive measures, house demolitions, and deportations, which had been halted for 16 months. I would like to firmly assert that the intifadah will maintain its character as a peaceful, democratic, mass movement that will never resort to firearms. Likewise we have to notice that the democratic intifadah has a comprehensive popular nature that does not need to use firearms. Similarly, we have to note quite well that the Israeli military establishment cannot do more than it has done in terms of the bloody acts of oppression which it has so far perpetrated. That is why it is searching for justifications. We say in no uncertain terms that the intifadah people are the only party capable of developing their militant, political, and mass means of struggle. Hence nothing should be suggested to them as to the means of struggle to be used from outside. Moreover, they should not be instructed or be issued any directives from the outside because they are the most capable of knowing the necessary means of struggle which have a democratic and mass nature. The most important task that should be accomplished concerning the intifadah regards ensuring the necessary financial backing from the PLO so that the strike by 180,000 Palestinian workers employed in Israeli establishments can be supported financially in order to create a state of general national disobedience; this is the condition that can bring the Israeli occupation to its knees, force its departure, and make the Israelis accept the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference.

[Salamah] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, as regards the international conference in particular, reports coming from New York confirm that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] have in principle approved the passage of a UNSC resolution endorsing the possibility of the convocation of such a conference at the appropriate time. Does this mean that the implementation of the idea consistently rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is under way?

[Hawatimah] I would like to say in clear terms again that a short while ago I was in contact with the Palestinian mission in New York. The U.S. Administration's delegate at the UNSC informed those Nonaligned Movement member states that submitted the draft resolution—under consideration for one month in the UNSC lobbies—that the U.S. Administration opposes any reference in the draft resolution welcoming the convocation of an international peace conference, even if the U.S. terms 'at the proper time' and 'at the proper venue' are used. The U.S. Administration insists on crossing out any reference to an international peace conference. Therefore, we would like to say in clear terms that the U.S. Administration is attempting to restore the situation to the circumstances that preceded the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in the Middle East region. We say no to returning to the situation we experienced for over 20 months of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. The end result was rejecting an international peace conference, insisting on exclusively using the good offices of the U.S. godfather, rejecting the participation of all Arab states, insisting on the exclusive participation of Egypt in peace talks, rejecting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, insisting on the self-rule contained in the plans of Shamir and Baker, refusing to negotiate with the PLO in its capacity as our people's sole legitimate representative, and ensuring that the PLO's role remain an invisible role [preceding two words in English] to ensure that a delegation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be formed to negotiate with the Israeli Ministry of Interior on holding elections in accordance with Shamir's plan. Hence, I would like to say that the U.S. Administration has so far continued to oppose all this. Only yesterday, the U.S. delegate informed the Nonaligned Movememt member states that sponsored the draft resolution that the U.S. Administration opposes all of this. Hence, I would like to say that France, the Soviets, the PRC, and Britain should play a special role to make the United States agree on the need to hold an international Middle East peace conference, because this also would facilitate the resolution of other crises in the Middle East region. Besides, this would also facilitate the attainment of a solution to the Palestine question, which is the mother of all crises in the Middle East, the Gulf, and the Arab states.

[Salamah] Indeed, the talk about the other crises leads us to the Gulf crisis. This crisis is progressing on the road of dialogue in spite of saber-rattling. Do you as Palestinians, and the PLO in particular, have a role in the process of the current relaxation, particularly regarding foreign nationals in Iraq?

[Hawatimah] In this regard, all the Arab states that have opposed war and aggression, including the PLO, are now convinced that unilateral efforts are no longer useful and therefore it is necessary to move toward collective efforts. Toward this end I was in Sanaa a few days ago, and I held talks with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni leadership. During and following these talks the Yemeni vice president, deputy prime minister, and the foreign minister left for Amman, Algeria, and Baghdad, and the foreign minister also left for France and Bonn. This move was aimed at exerting collective Arab efforts to launch a new, balanced Arab political initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis under the Arab umbrella because, within the framework of the Arab umbrella, it is possible to reach a compromise [preceding word in English] that takes into consideration the interests of Iraq and the Gulf peoples and their right to self-determination. It is possible to reach solutions. Insistence on the U.S. conditions, however, obstructs political solutions and makes war and aggression the only option.

Our efforts and those of a number of Arab states, particularly Yemen, Jordan, and Algeria, to discuss with the Iraqi brothers the need to make positive steps within the Arab framework and release all foreigners in Baghdad so as to make it possible to achieve a relaxation in the international atmosphere and to seriously search for political solutions—as well as to absorb tension in the United States with the objective of criticizing the war and aggression option and bolstering the peace option and the need to reach political solutions—also fall within this framework.

[Salamah] The legitimate Lebanese Government insists on preventing every illegal armed Lebanese presence on all Lebanese territories. As President Ilyas al-Hirawi said, this applies to the armed Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon, taking into account that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies had abrogated the Cairo Agreement signed between the Lebanese Government and the PLO. Does the PLO have the desire to facilitate the legitimate government's actions, particularly regarding the withdrawal of all illegal arms from Lebanon?

[Hawatimah] In the DFLP we have been with the al-Ta'if agreement from the very beginning, and with the need to implement it and enable the legitimate Lebanese Government to spread its control over all Lebanese territories. We continue to take this position. Moreover, in the PLO we have discussed all these issues during the meetings of the PLO Central Council and the Palestinian leadership. I have participated in these discussions, along with brother Abu- 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and others. We in the PLO are ready to open a dialogue with the legitimate Lebanese Government. Therefore I say that the Palestinian delegation—which would reach positive results to meet the demands of the legitimate government and to achieve security for the Palestinian camps—is the delegation made up of representatives of the PLO factions in the camps, in addition to a delegation of the PLO Executive Committee. In this respect I believe that we will be able to reach solutions to achieve the security of the Palestinian camps, which suffered for a long time as a result of the aggressive Israeli raids, invasions, and the Sabra and Shatila massacres; and at the same time to secure something in southern Lebanon that would enable us to cooperate with the legitimate Lebanese Government based on the joint struggle to end the Israeli occupation of border areas in southern Lebanon. I also believe that it will be possible to reach solutions that will be satisfactory to the legitimate Lebanese Government and the rights of a unified, free, sovereign, and democratic Lebanon; and that will secure the camps' right to protect themselves and to participate, along with all the forces in southern Lebanon, in ending the Israeli occupation of the border strip area.

[Salamah] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, thank you for this discussion.

[Hawatimah] Thank you.

Algeria

Bendjedid Leaves To Start Middle East Tour

LD1112150690 Algiers APS in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, 11 Dec (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid left Algiers this morning for Amman, the first leg of his friendly and working tour of the Middle East.

The head of state was seen off at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the National People's Assembly; Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche; Abdelmalek Benhabiles, president of the Constitutional Council; and General Khaled Nezzar, minister of national defense.

Hamrouche Government Wins Vote of Confidence

LD1112194490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The government of Mouloud Hamrouche this evening won parliament's confidence after a majority of the deputies voted to renew their confidence in it. Only two deputies voted to withdraw confidence, one of whom was (Abdelkader Mesbah), who had recently joined the party formed by Kasdi Merbah.

Correspondents on the spot also noted the absence during the voting of Rabih Bitat, the former speaker of parliament. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Sidqi, Syrian Prime Minister Sign Communique

NC1212093390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—This morning Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi signed the final communique of the Egyptian-Syrian Joint Higher Committee that began its meetings in Cairo last Monday.

At the final session of the committee, the two sides signed an agreement on economic, tourism, land and maritime transport, and railways cooperation.

Letters between the two countries on the renewal of the trade agreement signed by the two countries in 1969 were also signed during the meeting.

In another development, Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communication, and maritime transport, has stated that a decision has been made to operate a regular maritime line between Alexandria and Latakia as of 1 January 1991.

Syrian Prime Minister Departs

NC1212145590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this afternoon following a two-day visit during which the Syrian delegation participated in the meetings of the Egyptian-Syrian higher joint committee. He was also received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and a number of ministers saw him off at the airport.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Views Investment in Egypt

JN1112181390 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Dec 90 p 9

[Text] Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri has said that it is difficult at present to assess the magnitude of the losses affecting Kuwaiti oil fields as a result of the Iraqi invasion. These losses are estimated at billions of dollars especially since all ports, production platforms, refineries, drilling towers, and oil tankers were plundered and stolen, and since the Iraqis have taken away everything connected with the economic structure of the oil sector, other state institutions, and the possessions of the Kuwaiti people.

He added that all investment projects and Kuwaiti companies abroad are working efficiently and normally.

He said he discussed with 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, Egyptian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, enhancing Kuwaiti investments in oil exploration and production in Egypt, where the Kuwaiti Government-owned Santa Fe drilling rigs are currently working to explore and produce oil at sea and on land.

The Kuwaiti Government has 15 drilling rigs in addition to the investments of the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company [KUFPEC], which is working to develop al-Amal oil fields in the Suez Canal, in addition to exploring for oil in an area 612km east of Matruh in cooperation with a Norwegian company. Kuwaiti investments in the Egyptian oil sector are estimated at $2000 million, in addition to Kuwait's participation in the investments of the Sumed pipeline that transports Arab oil from Suez to Alexandria.

Israeli, Iraqi Human Rights Violations Examined

NC1112192190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, denounced the inhuman practices and human rights violations by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories and by the Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

He said that Egypt condemns these practices that violate all international charters and calls on Israel to cease and desist from them, to cooperate with the peace efforts, and to implement the international resolutions for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that Egypt also appeals to Iraq to withdraw immediately from Kuwait in accordance with Security Council Resolution 677 in order to spare the region the ordeals of war.

This came in his address to a ceremony held at the diplomatic club in Cairo tonight by the Human Rights Supporters Society on the occasion of the world day on human rights. The speech was delivered on his behalf by Ambassador Munir Zahran, head of the Foreign Ministry's international organizations department.

In his speech Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed Egypt's commitment to the Palestinian issue and its support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and heroic intifadah. He described the intifadah as an historic event that confirms that the Palestinian people will not submit to occupation and the status quo. He said that while the Israeli occupation is the biggest violation of Palestinian and Arab human rights, the inhuman practices of the occupation authorities in the occupied territories are escalating despite the repeated international condemnations which have, regrettably, not changed the Israeli authorities' intransigence, rejection of the peaceful settlement efforts, and their persistent actions to efface the Palestinian people's identity and the Islamic and Christian holy places.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the situation in the region will not stabilize and that lasting peace will not prevail without a peaceful and just solution to the Palestinian issue.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister then touched on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He stressed that Egypt and its Arab brothers express their deep concern over the sufferings of the Kuwaitis and the foreigners at the hands of the Iraqi occupation forces, and also underline their condemnation of the Iraqi practices which violate Arab, Islamic, and international norms and values.

He added that the Iraqi authorities have gone too far in their inhuman practices in order to force the Kuwaitis to leave their homeland so as to replace them with Iraqi families and thus change the state's demography, and in looting Kuwait's assets that rightfully belong to the state, the people, and foreigners residing in Kuwait, including Egyptians.

He went on to say that Egypt joins the international consensus in condemning these practices and reiterated his appeal to Iraq to withdraw immediately in accordance with Security Council Resolution 667 in order to spare the region the ordeals of war. [passage omitted]

Use of One Standard for All Crises Advocated

NC1112170290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: "The Scales of Justice Must Not be Unbalanced"]

[Excerpts] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has categorically rejected the principle of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East because the task of such a conference will be to impose a solution on Israel; Shamir again reiterates the old stance rejecting an international conference. To begin with, we state that the intention of holding an international conference was to attain a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis. All international parties favor holding it in one way or another. [passage omitted]

The U.S. stand on the international conference has not been clear and specific. The United States supports a settlement, the establishment of stability, and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It believes, however, that this should be done through its intercession and via its initiatives. The initiatives submitted by the United States since President Reagan took office have not produced any positive results. Indeed, the Zionist lobby in the United States aborted these positive U.S. initiatives, including the most recent one which proposed holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting.

Finally, following the massacre of more than 20 Palestinian martyrs in Jerusalem, the idea of holding an international peace conference was revived. The major powers, including the United States itself, saw that it is necessary to hold an international conference in the future to settle the Middle East crisis. [passage omitted]

For days now, the UN Security Council has been trying to formulate a text on holding an international conference that would be acceptable to the United States. Washington, however, has not yet accepted. This impelled Egypt to formally inform the United States that it supports the current efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East crisis by holding an international conference, but without linking it to the issue of ending Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Egypt has emphasized its concern that there should be no double standard and that UN Security Council resolutions must be respected and implemented.

Doubtlessly, the Security Council's failure to adopt a clear resolution on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and to decide the issue of holding an international peace conference will harm its credibility. Indeed, slowness in adopting the required resolution might have adverse consequences on the international moves that seek to contain explosive issues. No one can accept handling one issue with one standard and handling another issue with a different standard.

More importantly, Yitzhaq Shamir must not declare in the heart of the U.S. capital that he rejects an international peace conference because it will impose solutions that are unacceptable to Israel. Yitshaq Shamir is completely wrong to imagine that any individual can defy the international will with such intransigence and arrogance. We would have believed that the lesson learned by the international community after Saddam Husayn's aggression on Kuwait has created a new climate that limits the conceited assumption that force and occupation can enable some parties to impose their wishes on others.

Foreign Ministry Cited on Intifadah Anniversary

NC1112134790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry issued a statement today hailing the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories vis-a-vis Israeli violence.

The statement said that the beginning of the heroic Palestinian intifadah's fourth year is an event of political significance for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

The statement, issued to mark the passage of three years since the beginning of the intifadah, stressed that the Palestinian people's steadfastness over the years of the occupation, especially in confronting the escalating Isareli violence—which is a desperate attempt to crush the intifadah—constitutes living proof of this people's great will of steadfastness.

The statement affirmed that the Palestinian people, backed by all the other Arab peoples, reject the continued occupation of Arab territory.

The Foreign Ministry's statement says that the persistence of the intifadah must convince the Israeli Government that it cannot hold on to the land and crush the Palestinian people's aspiration to establish a state on their own territory.

The statement notes that the need for a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict within the framework of UN resolutions has become more urgent in light of the current international inclination to settle regional conflicts.

The statement says Egypt emphasizes the need to establish mutual security among all the countries and peoples of the region and adds that peace in the Middle East will not be established as long as this objective is not attained.

The statement stresses the need for the countries of the region to reach agreement, in a UN context, on measures leading to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Abu-Talib, Zairian Minister Discuss Cooperation

NC1212090690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—In the Defense Ministry this morning General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, received Admiral Mavua Mudina, Zairian minister of national defense; Pramatu Bama, chief of the national guards; and the delegation accompanying them, who are currently on a visit to Egypt. The meeting discussed ways to bolser military cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of training and armament. [passage omitted]

Libya

Memorandum on 'Abducted' Citizens Submitted to UN

LD1212084390 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The representative of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations met yesterday with UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and acquainted him with the U.S. action in abducting the Libyan Arab citizens in Chad by force and against their will and transferring them to unknown places.

Following the meeting, the Great Jamahiriyah's representative said that he delivered a memorandum to the UN secretary general stressing the need for permitting the Red Cross Organization to contact the Libyan Arab citizens who were abducted by the United States and France and facilitate their return to their country and kinsmen.

The Great Jamahiriyah's representative also met with the Yemeni delegate to the United Nations, who is this month's chairman of the UN Security Council, in this regard. He asked the UN Security Council to adopt urgent measures to permit the Red Cross Organization to get in touch with the Libyan citizens and facilitate their return home. He also handed him an official memorandum in this respect.

He also asked the UN Security Council to bring pressure to bear on the United States to return the Libya nationals it abducted from Chad to their country.

'Inhuman Acts' by U.S. in Chad Criticized

LD1112222190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The Libyan committee on the rights of man in the age of the masses today issued an appeal to all the free men of the world and human rights organizations and committees. Here is the text of the appeal:

The Libyan Arab committee on the rights of man in the age of the masses was appalled by the inhuman acts of the United States of America committed by its CIA against the Libyan Arab nationals in Chad by forcibly abducting them against their will and by repatriating them to unknown destinations without their consent. These acts contravene all international charters and conventions and, with great regret were committed during the world celebrations of the 42d anniversary of the international declaration of human rights. They also contravene the Geneva agreement concerning prisoners of war, which calls for the freedom of prisoners to choose the place they want to go with their own free will after release, and without any material or moral pressures.

U.S. imperialism, which claims falsely that it upholds human rights everywhere, committed this abominable crime, which gave no regard to sanctity or rights or respect for charters or pledges. Thus, it has violated all international charters and treaties concerning human rights. And it has become necessary for the free and upright men of the world and those who champion human rights to denounce this inhuman crime, which degrades man's dignity and threatens his fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Libyan Arab committee on the rights of man in the age of the masses, while denouncing these acts which contravene the simplest principles and bases of human rights and fundamental freedoms, appeals to the free men of the world—organizations and individuals—to stand on its side and support the great Jamahiriyah and its legitimate demands, which call for the return of its nationals to their relatives in accordance with their own free choice and to put an end to such piratical and inhuman acts; and the need to respect the rights of man and his basic freedom by word and deed so that security and peace prevail throughout the world and all enjoy freedom and prosperity.

Demonstrators in Banghazi Protest U.S. 'Piracy'

LD1112173390 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Masses of the basic people's congresses in the municipality of al-Bayn al-Awwal [Banghazi] took to the streets this morning in a demonstration of anger and condemnation of the biggest act of piracy committed by America, with the help of the French forces in Chad, in which Libyan Arab citizens were kidnapped from Ndjamena and transported to unknown destinations against their will, in airplanes belonging to the American Air Force.

Demonstrators set off from Sports City, in the direction of the municipality's people's congress secretariat, chanting long live the Great Fatih [1 September] Revolution and its leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the internationalist revolutionary, stressing their constant readiness to be soldiers of the Green Thought [of al-Qadhdhafi], defending freedom everywhere in the world.

Demonstrators chanted slogans calling for the international community to face up to this criminal act perpetrated by America with the help of France, stressing the need for action to expel both America and France from the United Nations for violating international laws and conventions. [passage omitted]

French Role in POW Evacuation Condemned

LD1112120590 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation yesterday issued a statement regarding France's statement on the question of the evacuation of the Libyan POW's from Chad.

The Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau statement says that France has claimed in its statement that it provided technical assistance to a humanitarian operation carried out under the responsibility of the Red Cross at the request of the Chadian authorities. The Libyan statement adds: The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation can only refer the French Foreign Ministry to the statement issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] on Monday, 10 December 1990, in Geneva.

As a reminder only, may we state the first paragraph of the ICRC statement states that it could not provide protection to the Libyan POW's, and could not meet with these POW's prior to their departure.

At the same time, Paris radio quoted the officer in charge of the French forces in Ndjamena as saying that "the French had participated directly in the operation of the movement of the Libyan soldiers from Chad under the pretext of protecting them; we took them, with the Americans, to the airport, after disarming them."

In light of this, the emerging facts prove that France's participation in carrying out the operation was far from being for humanitarian reasons. What about the contradiction between the statement of the French Foreign Ministry and that of the official from the French forces in Chad, quoted by Paris radio?

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, while affirming all that was contained in the statements issued by the Great Jamahiriyah, wishes to call to attention that all other statements and reports affirm the credibility of the statements issued by the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Radio Reports Execution of Al-Nubah Citizens

EA0912214090 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Informed sources in southern Kurdufan have reported a dangerous deterioration of security conditions in that al-Bashir's government and militias of the Islamic Front have launched a violent campaign against the sons of the al-Nubah Mountains. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese authorities executed a large number of sons of the al-Nubah Mountains on a charge of contacting the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. The authorities [word indistinct] rigorous secrecy about reports of these massacres. The authorities also set up five search points between Dilling and Kaduqli, where anyone suspected of not supporting the government was arrested and assassinated. Reports said that the Islamic Front's militias attacked villages in the north of the mountains surrounding Dilling. These villages include (Dullu), (Silmin), (Kasalah), and (Wali) which were completely destroyed. They killed the innocent people, namely old people and children, emptied all the houses, surrounded those living among them, and prevented them from leaving. These people are now surrounded on the hills to meet their death [words indistinct].

Radio Says SPLA Victories 'Imaginary'

EA0712151590 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] My discourse today is directed to the citizens living in operational zones such as [names indistinct]. The rebel radio these days broadcasts imaginary victories. We want to tell all the citizens to stay away from the areas operated by the rebels and that they should report any rebel movements around their areas. This should be as soon as possible because the rebels' activities are not aimed against the Armed Forces alone but rather include an intention to (?destroy) [words indistinct] or the supply of items bound to the people in some areas.

Thus, my compatriots, combatants, all sons of Sudan, as for the rebels' external activities as well as those of the internal elements of the fifth column, we want to say this: Of course there is (?evidence) that some parties are working, with external instigation, to tear apart the unity of Sudan and the unity of African nations. Those parties have joined up with the rebel movement hatching conspiracy aimed at obstructing the National Salvation Revolution. But the reality which every citizen should know is that these activities are doomed to failure [words indistinct]. We want to say that Sudan is nobody's possession. Sudan is for all the sons of Sudan. [passage omitted]

It goes without saying that those conspirators are agents working for the interests of foreign intrigues. What should be mentioned here is that some of those traitors have received support from the Zionist State of Israel. Some of those persons have paid a secret visit to Israel. They were led by Mansur Khalid, a former foreign minister who defected to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, [SPLA], Lam Akol, a senior Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/SPLA official, and 'Izz al-Din 'Ali Amir, (?Communist Party) secretary general. No one (?ever thought) that those traitors would plot against their country and people in Sudan. These people have no gratitude (?for) Sudan, especially Mansur Khalid, and 'Izz al-Din 'Ali Amir the Jew.

(?Warning) to our people in the south and especially those in the operational areas: The Armed Forces are capable of moving to any inch of Sudanese soil. What you hear from the radio of the rebel John Garang and other foreign radios should [words indistinct], particularly the calls aired from traitor John Garang's radio which calls the citizens to take refuge in the secure areas, namely, the areas under his (?control). We warn you, citizens, that these areas are regarded as operational zones and that our planes are capable of [words indistinct], therefore, we caution the citizens to keep far from these areas and from all areas where there is rebellion. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, sons of the south, and sons of Sudan: Concerning foreign provocations and the political moves to consider the rebel movement [word indistinct] in foreign countries such as [word indistinct], these African countries should know that Sudan is capable of provoking these countries if so wished. For we in Sudan (?wish) for good neighborliness, but some countries try to provide the SPLA with information and military support or provide an avenue for it to strike at the Armed Forces from the back. We acknowledge the sovereignty of these countries and their possession of forces capable of deterring [words indistinct] when the SPLA violate their borders. Those words should be taken as a warning to these countries; they should work according to the principles of good neighborliness. We deem that security and stability are the responsibility of any ruler of these countries, as long as Sudan believes in good neighborliness and cares for the stability of those countries. [passage omitted]

Army Officer Sentenced to Death for Embezzlement

AB1112084290 Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 10 (AFP)—A senior Sudanese army officer, Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Salih has been sentenced to death by court martial after being found guilty of embezzling 40 million Sudanese pounds (about nine million dollars).

The court also ordered Col. Salih to be stripped of his rank and sacked from the army. All his belongings will be confiscated, according to a report in the Army daily AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH.

Head of State General 'Umar al-Bashir had endorsed the sentence, the report said. The report did say when Col. Salih was tried.

'Arafat Attends Ceremony, Leaves Khartoum 8 Dec

EA0912184090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0932 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Dec (SUNA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Khartoum on 8 December after participating in the procession organized on Saturday at the beginning of festivities marking the week of solidarity with the Palestinian people on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the intifadah.

In a press statement before his departure, President 'Arafat said that he discussed with President [title as received] al-Bashir the substance of last week's Baghdad meeting between Presidents Yasir 'Arafat, Saddam Husayn, King Hussayn, and Yemeni Prime Minister

Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas on the situation in the Gulf. An Arab solution to the Gulf crisis based on the Palestinian question is needed.

President 'Arafat ended by saying that the Khartoum procession expressed the support and solidarity of the Sudanese people to their Palestinian brothers.

Popular Committees Support 'Palestinian Brothers'

AB0812222490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA)—The popular committees in Khartoum called on the Arab nation to solve the Arab differences, realize the Arab comprehensive unity, and work together to make the Israeli plans for establishing greater Israel a failure. In a statement it issued here today on the occasion of the Sudanese-Palestinian week of solidarity, the committees indicated that the Palestinian question is witnessing currently an important phase in the face of the international and regional changes.

The statement went on to point out the support which Israel receives from the West [word indistinct] and the huge presence of the imperialist forces in the Arab Gulf, which aims for the establishment of the Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. The statement affirmed that the solidarity of the Sudanese people with their Islamic and Arabic brothers was based on joint relations.

Today's procession in which all the citizens of Khartoum take part comes in the context of the Sudanese people's support to their Palestinian brothers in their fair struggle to liberate their land, the communique concluded.

Joint Constitutional Meeting Held With Libya

EA0812214290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA)—A discussion by the joint constitutional committee (?aimed) at unifying legislation between Sudan and Libya in all spheres opened today at the Attorney General's Office. [passage indistinct]

The committee will resume its meeting tomorrow to discuss an appropriate way to (?unify) legislation between the countries, regarding that as a [words indistinct] to implement the joint integrational steps.

Al-Bashir Departs for Iran 10 December

EA1012141590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0932 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 December (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], General 'Umar al-Bashir, left here today for Tehran on a three-day state visit for talks with Iranian officials on strengthening cooperation between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The RCC chairman, announcing his planned visit to Iran at a weekly limited news conference he gave Sunday, he said the visit would be part of his government's policy of strengthening relations with Asian countries which, he said, dealt with Sudan in sincerity without being influenced by any third party pressure and without exerting pressure themselves on Sudan.

He expects the talks that he and the accompanying high-level delegation [are to have] would be fruitful as the two countries hold identical Islamic thought and because Iran could not be deterred from cooperation with Sudan due to pressures exercised by colonialist powers on other states.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Addresses House of Representatives

LD1212000190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Policy statement speech delivered by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui in the House of Representatives in Tunis on 11 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies: I am honored, with God's blessing, and on behalf of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and in the name of the government, to present the draft economic budget and the draft general state budget for 1991. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies, as you know, our economy passed through a difficult situation, whose acuteness grew in 1986. It was characterized by a great imbalance in general direction, which seriously threatened the development operation. We confronted those difficulties by approving a number of measures and reforms, to avoid the negative factors and provide conditions suitable for the start of the development operation in a continuing and balanced manner. And despite the difficult climatic conditions in the years 1988 and 1989, we have steadily continued the reform operation, which has covered in particular the fields of investment, finance, administration, prices, collection, and the monetary system, in addition to the measures taken in favor of the educational and social sectors. These measures have enabled the overcoming of the significant financial imbalances and the giving of a new impetus to the economy, whose first harbingers emerged during 1989 and were consolidated in a noticeable way this year, especially in relation to growth, investment, and employment.

The rise in the growth rate is the most important positive result for 1990. It is expected to reach 6.5 percent in constant prices, which is a level we have not witnessed for more than 10 years. The noticeable improvement in agricultural production has contributed to a great extent to the achievement of this percentage, and as a result of the continued growth of the exporting sectors at a quick rate for the fourth successive year, with the exception of oil and fertilizers, and also due to the noticeable improvement in the growth of the industrial sectors and services directed at the local market.

The continued improvement of investment constitutes the second positive factor in the results of this year. It will reach a total estimated at 2.5 billion dinars, compared to 2 billion dinars in 1989; that is, a 17 percent increase in constant prices. [passage omitted]

This dynamism had a positive reflection on the employment market. New jobs in the non-agricultural sectors are expected to reach 46,000, which will cover the major part of the additional demands for jobs; in addition to the jobs created in the agricultural sector, a matter which had a positive influence on the employment sector in the countryside. [passage omitted]

The employment projects also contributed in making available about 6000 training opportunities as far as graduates are concerned. This enabled us to reduce the gap between applications and new posts for this section of job-seekers. [passage omitted]

The state's budget has witnessed some pressures at the level of expenditures because of the increase in salaries, which has reached nearly 50 million dinars as far as the second semester of this year is concerned, as well as the cost of compensation for damages caused by the floods and as a result of the cessation of activity of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Kuwaiti Fund for Development following the events in the Gulf. This required the compensation of allocations planned for the benefit of some projects with advances from the treasury of 60 million dinars. These pressures affected more acutely the balance of foreign payments, with the increase of imports—at a speedy rate for the second consecutive year—coupled with a decrease of exports for some sectors, among which we would particularly mention fertilizers and tourism.

It is a matter which could not be dealt with fully despite the important and continuous increase of exports of textiles, leather, and mechanical and electrical products.

As a result of these developments, it is expected that the balance of payments deficit will reach 455 million dinars, which represents 4.1 percent of the gross national product [GNP] compared to 312 million dinars and 3.2 percent for the year 1989. The limiting of the impact of this deficit on foreign debt was made possible thanks to the noticeable increase of the volume of foreign investments and the shrinking of the need to resort to debts within the preliminary expectations of the economic budget. Thus, the indices of foreign debt have continued to improve as the percentage of debt has gone down from 54 percent to 52 percent of the GNP, and the servicing of debts represented 21.8 percent of current income compared to 22.4 percent for the year 1989.

Your Excellency the President, honorable gentlemen deputies, the development plan proposed for 1991 comes on the same path which we have adopted since the change and aims—in the light of positive results as well as pressures of 1991—to reconcile the necessity to control internal demand with the aim to protect financial balances and avoid inflation on one hand, and not destabilize the revival witnessed by the economy on the other. [passage omitted]

One must be ready for the possible economic stagnation which might be brought about by the developments in the international arena, the decrease of development rates, the increase of inflation, and the continuation of the Gulf crisis with its repercussions on international relations and trade exchanges. On the basis of this, the main characteristics of the development plan of 1991 are represented in achieving an increase of 4.5 percent, with fixed prices, as far as the national product is concerned. This is an acceptable level which relies particularly on a normal farming season and the continuation of the development of factory industries at a speedy rate, in continuation of the good results registered in 1990, as well as the revival of tourism after stagnation for two consecutive years. It also relies on the continuation of the investment effort, the volume of which is estimated at 2.9 billion dinars, i.e. with an increase of 8.6 percent, with fixed prices, as compared to 1990.

It is expected that the development of production and investment will have repercussions on the labor market, as the number of jobs created in the non-agricultural sectors will reach more than 48,000 posts which cover 87 percent of the additional job applications. [passage omitted]

In spite of some slowness [words indistinct] 3.5 percent in constant prices, a rate which is less than the development of the GNP.

A new impetus will also be given to exports by relying on the available scope in the food, textiles, and fertilizer sectors, and in the sectors that have recently begun to export, such as construction materials and the mechanical and electrical industries.

In this respect, it is necessary to stress the need to win this challenge which we have taken upon ourselves; to reverse the negative direction that had been witnessed during the past two years in spite of the significant development of non-petroleum exports; and to take the necessary measures to meet this challenge in anticipation of all possible developments. In consequence, the debt situation will continue to improve; the rate of indebtedness will continue to decrease; and, for the first time since 1984, the servicing of debts will be confined to less than 20 percent of current receipts. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Speaker, your honors, we shall focus during 1991 on consolidating and deepening the reforms that have already been introduced, and on widening the scope of these reforms, so that they will encompass other vital economic sectors and give the reform process greater comprehensiveness.

Regarding the first axis, the 1991 program will, in particular, be characterized by a consolidation of reforms that have been introduced to the taxation, foreign trade, administration, and public sectors. [passage omitted]

On the foreign trade plane, the program of freeing of imports will continue with the aim to give more flexibility to the economy [words indistinct] competition so as to include more consumer products which are produced locally. In this field, the aim is represented in the liberation of imports with a percentage of more than 75 percent by the end of next year, and this within the framework of a clear plan which aims at regulating reasonable protection of the national produce for a transitional period to enable national enterprises to adapt to international competition. This plan is based on amending customs duties, adapting them to development requirements, establishing conditions for import which conform to national and international prescriptions, in addition to fighting unfair foreign competition to national produce [word indistinct] and working for the improvement of the competitive power of our entrerprises. [passage omitted]

The issue of employment will remain at the forefront of the concerns of the state, considering its central position in the process of reconciliation between the economic and social aims of development. In this direction, we will continue to work for the consolidation of investment initiatives and the creation of new projects aiming to absorb the largest part of our human resources, particularly the young ones. We are also determined to increase the productivity of the employment programs and incorporate them in an ambitious and coherent plan which considers national orientations and development dimensions at the regional level. [passage omitted]

The 1991 budget is based particularly on continuing the consolidation of the mobilization of our own resources and the control of expenditures without neglecting the main duties of the state. In this framework, the total of the 1991 budget has been fixed at 4.08 billion dinars, i.e. with in increase of 10 percent compared to the estimate of the finance law of 1990. The estimates of revenues are based on a limited development of ordinary revenues which will reach 3.08 billion dinars, i.e. with an increase of 11.8 per cent as compared to 1990. This requires important efforts in order to mobilize these resources, particularly the tax revenues. It must be recalled that the tax reform upon which we embarked boldly has been characterized by an important decrease of tax rates. [passage omitted]

In this context, domestic loans will reach about 550 million dinars as compared to 450 [million dinars] in 1990; among these, 265 million as treasury bonds. The resort to domestic loans will cover the budget deficit which is estimated at 3.4 percent of the total local product, and this is nearly the same expected rate of 1990, or 3.5 percent. As for expenditures, the budget is characterized by the controlled utilization of revenues which will strengthen the savings effort, as the first article is expected to contribute in the second 477 million dinars as compared to 398 during 1990. In this context, the management expenses have been fixed to 1,805 million dinars as compared to 1,580 [million dinars] in 1990, i.e. [number indistinct] percent which are attributed mainly to the importance of funds drawn in the article of increase of salaries and wages, which amounts to 150 million dinars. [passage omitted]

Your Excellency the President, honorable gentlemen deputies, the development budget of 1991 is characterized by a package of new measures which have been taken for the first time aimed at embodying the regional dimension of the development process so as to highlight the regional projects separately. The funds of the development budget will reach about 1,477 million dinars as compared to 1,353 [million dinars] in 1990, i.e. an increase of 9.2 percent if we took into account the foreign financing which is allocated to some public projects. Thus, the total volume of this budget increases to about 1,654 million dinars, without taking into account the budget devoted to communications which is estimated at 176 million dinars, among these 87 million dinars come from foreign loans.

With regard to expenditures, we have given priority to providing payment funds to the current projects and to capital repayment [of loans] for which the sum of 672 million dinars has been reserved so that we can keep our financial commitments and [assist] the other vital sectors such as agriculture, equipment, housing, communications, the social sectors, and regional development. In this context, the Ministry of Agriculture was allocated, under the heading of direct investments, total funds estimated at 203 million dinars as compared to 170 million dinars in 1990, i.e. an increase of 18.8 percent, which is a percentage corresponding to double the rate of the development budget. [passage omitted]

The communication sector, under the heading of investments, has been allocated 148 million dinars, which over the next three years will enable the creation of 275,000 new telephone lines in cities and covering 1000 villages. As to investments of social nature, the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, and Scientific Research has been allocated 113 million dinars in order to consolidate the infrastructure, in line with the needs resulting from the increase in students. We have also allocated 30 million dinars to the Ministry of Public Health to enable it to continue current projects involving the building and expansion of regional hospitals, the consolidation of health installations, and the support of preventive campaigns, and the program of maintenance and [word indistinct]. The Ministry of Youth and Childhood in its turn has been allocated more than 10 million dinars to consolidate youth and sport installations.

Mr. President, honorable deputies, regional development enjoys continuing care from the state, out of our belief that the development operation should start from the regional reality, and within this context 158 million dinars have been allocated to the various regional programs. [passage omitted]

We consider the employment statute an important gain for the workers. As I have already said before businessmen, the employment statute not only protects the worker; rather, it protects the establishment in particular. [passage omitted]

We in this House represent the majority in the country, and we have the right to legislate. [passage omitted] On 1 May I had proposed the participation of the opposition in by-elections, to allow it to be present in the House of Representatives. The opposition rejected this [words indistinct]. True, the opposition has the right to adopt the way it deems suitable; it has the right to accept or reject as it sees fit. The people are an arbitrator, but the only thing we say is that [words indistinct]. It is time for the opposition to stop making demands, and come up with initiatives. Time has come for initiatives, perhaps, to come from the opposition.

As far as we are concerned we must continue our work and legislate, and all laws we make in this framework are laws of the republic. They may be improved, especially laws regulating political life. [passage omitted] But laws must be respected by all people, because a state of law is not without law and never accepts chaos.

As a matter of fact I was surprised by the silence of certain oppositions and political leanings, regrettably, vis-a-vis what we recently discovered: Some people had stolen weapons and explosives with the intention of spreading chaos in the country and committing acts of aggression against unarmed citizens.

I cannot here go into details about this subject, as it is in the hands of justice, in the stage of investigation. But what we are saying is that it was natural, it was supposed that all the oppositions and political leanings without exception should condemn such an act. But it seems that talking about democracy is much easier than practicing it, or accepting its rules.

We are continuing our work, and these were, Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, the main axes of the reforms submitted to you. All that we have mentioned will be put forward in the form of draft laws, and it will be implemented only when it is adopted by the legislative authority.

This concerns our domestic policy in various domains. Regarding our foreign policy, we have been working, since 7 November [1987], under the guidance of the principles heralded, on laying down clear objectives for our foreign policy and on providing this policy with working means so as to assume its role in full; in accordance with a comprehensive visualization that strikes a balance between the requirements of entrenching the values of our authenticity and the requirements of openness and ways of attaining progress; within the framework of a noble aim seeking to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between us and the peoples of the world. The aim is also to contribute to the setting up of new international relations based on a comprehensive peace and built on human solidarity founded on justice, equity, and equilibrium. [passage omitted]

Our foreign policy was also reflected by our permanent eagerness to contribute with all our energy to the solving of the issues and problems facing our Arab nation. In this precise context comes our diligent effort to take part in the quest for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, which is now on the road of hope after the agreement of the Iraqi and U.S. sides to open dialogue at the Foreign Ministry level.

Tunisia, which has done its utmost for the containment of this crisis since its first days, continues its diligent efforts for a way out of the impasse of the Gulf situation. As already made clear by the president of the Republic in his speech of 11 August 1990, and the [presidential] address I have had the honor of conveying to you at an extraordinary session held by your venerable assembly on 11 September, Tunisia—which adheres to international legitimacy and to regional and UN conventions—is of the opinion that an appropriate solution to this crisis can only be a peaceful solution that spares the region and the world the disaster of an armed conflict, which may have dire consequences for all parties.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives, the Arab nation has constantly been called upon to hasten and transcend the Gulf crisis, and to bring back cohesiveness to its ranks so that it can face up to the looming dangers that surround the fate of our great cause [the Palestinian cause] due to the increasing Israeli challenges. [passage omitted]

We repeat our call to the international community to deal with the Palestinian question in a spirit devoid of any form of selectivity, and to impose on the Zionist entity a respect of the UN will. [passage omitted]

We have had several contacts at all levels with Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, in addition to what was achieved by the Tunisian-Libyan higher committee and the progress of its work during two sessions in Tunis and Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives, the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] in our view constitutes an additional means of strengthening our horizontal cooperation with the developing countries and our vertical cooperation with the advanced countries. From this premise, alongside the strengthening of the network of our bilateral relations with various areas and countries of the world, we have sought to set up contact bridges between the AMU and similar groupings. [passage omitted]

The speaker addressed in this regard the forthcoming plan, which I have discussed and will, in particular, be open to all Tunisians and all tendencies, without exception. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Information Minister Sees No U.S. 'Retreat'

NC0912104890 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] London—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has welcomed the decision to release the hostages who have been held in Iraq. He said, however, that the world must remember that Kuwait is still being held hostage by Iraq.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-HAYAH today, Dr. al-Ya'qub pointed out that U.S. President George Bush's proposal for negotiations with Iraq is not a retreat, but rather an essential measure to force Iraq to withdraw and to exhaust all peaceful means before resorting to the use of force. He noted that Iraq's release of foreign hostages represents Saddam Husayn's final attempt to undermine the international, Arab, and Islamic front and to gain the support of the public in certain countries which could be affected by the decision.

Meanwhile, the State of Qatar has welcomed Iraq's decision to release all foreign hostages. A Qatari Foreign Ministry source said today that the State of Qatar considers the Iraqi decision an important and positive step toward a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis.

In his statement, the Qatari source pointed out that the State of Qatar believes that this step demonstrates that the UN resolutions have begun to bear fruit. The source expressed the hope that Iraq will implement the remaining UN resolutions which call for its full an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and for the return of the legitimate government led by his highness the amir.

Minister Welcomes Bush Initiative on Talks

JN1112180390 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 10 Dec 90 p 9

[Interview with Shaykh Nasir al-Sabah, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Zuhayr al-'Abbad; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [AL-BAYAN] Would you tell us about the U.S. President's recent initiative?

[Al-Sabah] We welcome U.S. President George Bush's initiative giving Iraq an opportunity to implement the Security Council's recent resolution calling for unconditional withdrawal and the return of the legitimate government under Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent.

The U.S. President's initiative shows outstanding political experience. We pray to God that the Iraqi regime will respond to the call of justice and withdraw its forces immediately from Kuwait without any procrastination to prevent bloodshed.

[AL-BAYAN] What about the government's moves?

[Al-Sabah] The Kuwaiti Government is working day and night to achieve its main objective—that is, the liberation of Kuwait, first and last, from the treacherous Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, which has always been a supporter of nations. Events have shown that all countries and nations stand on the side of Kuwait in its ordeal and condemn the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Minister: US Initiative Implies No Concessions

PM1212101890 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Dec 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Information Minister Says: Not A Single Inch Must Be Surrendered, No Negotiations Except After Withdrawal"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has emphasized that the last chance call addressed to the Iraqi regime by U.S. President Bush does not imply any concession or relinquishment of Kuwait's rights or of the international resolutions adopted by the Security Council. On the contrary, it is a call to assert these resolutions and a final U.S. attempt to spare the world and Iraq the effects of a devastating war on God knows what scale. In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT during his current visit to Cairo, he said that President Bush was still consistent with himself and the international will on the need for complete implementation of the Security Council resolutions and that there were no secret talks between the United States and Iraq. In fact the opposite is the case: There is total determination to implement the international community's will.

He announced Kuwait's categorical rejection of any partial solutions that would reward the Iraqi aggressor for his attack on his neighboring Arab Muslim people. He emphasized the need for an unconditional and complete withdrawal, to restore legitimacy, and not to surrender a single inch of Kuwaiti territory, because Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait conflicts with the most basic moral principles and the laws of the divine religions, and especially our Islamic religion. This is why there was a strong a rapid Arab, Islamic, and international response with regard to the need to deter the aggressor through the resolutions adopted by the Cairo extraordinary Arab summit, the Islamic states' foreign ministers conference, the nonaligned states, and the international community. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti information minister said that Saddam was implementing the Security Council resolutions in reverse order, starting with the Article 3 on the release of hostages, before Articles 1 and 5 on a complete and unconditional withdrawal and Article 2 on the restoration of legitimacy. The Kuwaiti information minister pointed out that this measure is a new attempt by Iraq to fish in muddy waters and to manipulate the international will.

But Saddam has miscalculated in that regard, because he thinks that by so doing he can break the international community's will. I tell him that the international community is fully aware of that and of his other tricks. This was emphasized recently by U.S. President Bush and the British prime minister—that is, the need to force Saddam to implement the Security Council resolutions in full.

Dr. al-Ya'qub added that the role of the supporting forces in the Gulf is to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Gulf states which Saddam is threatening with invasion and to work to implement the international community's resolutions on the liberation of Kuwait.

He emphasized there were no secret agreements between the United States and the Iraqi regime, because clearly what is required is the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions, especially since war is not the pastime of the United States or the world, or of Kuwait and the Gulf. So it is better for Saddam to withdraw peacefully so as to spare the region and the world the calamities of a devastating war.

With regard to direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait, the information minister said: We reject any dialogue or negotiations as long as there are Iraqi troops on Kuwaiti territory. No negotiations except after withdrawal. Let Saddam withdraw, then the dispute, the Iraqi allegations, and the facts about Kuwait will be referred to the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Security Council, or any neutral body in order to discuss the dispute after the withdrawal. He said: We demanded direct negotiations and Arab arbitration from the first day of the Iraqi allegations, to which we responded clearly in the memorandum that we sent to the Arab League Council and that exposed the falseness of those allegations. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives UAE Officials, Others

LD1112201990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Kuwait Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir this afternoon received the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan. The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad. The meeting focused on discussing the situation in the region that has resulted from the unjust Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, and ways of ending it, in addition to the good bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

Later, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad received the ambassadors of Japan and Czechoslovakia accredited to Kuwait separately. Bilateral relations between Kuwait and these countries were reviewed during the meetings, which reaffirmed their support and backing for Kuwait and its people in their just struggle for liberating Kuwait from the claws of Iraqi occupation. The acting prime minister and foreign minister received a letter from the Czechoslovak prime minister concerning bilateral relations between the two countries.

Egyptian Doctor Reports Plundering in Kuwait

AU1112173990 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 8 Dec 90 p 3

[Report on interview with Mahmud Tawil, an Egyptian physician who just returned from Kuwait, by CTK correspondent Martin Jankovec, in Cairo, date not given: "A Country in Which Nothing That Can Be Stolen Is Left"]

[Text] Kuwait is a city of specters. It is unrecognizable, and all the Kuwaiti citizens who remained in the country became Iraqi prisoners in the true sense of the word. This was stated in an interview with a CTK correspondent by Mahmud Tawil, an Egyptian physician who recently visited Kuwait, where he worked, before the Iraqi invasion, as a surgeon in one of the best hospitals.

The city is in danger of an epidemic and there is no place to care for the ill. The Iraqi occupants removed all medical equipment from the hospitals. Even hospital beds disappeared. The foreign medical staff ran off.

Fear and mistrust rule among the Kuwaitis. The occupational authorities infiltrated Iraqis and Palestinians who pretend to be local citizens. They mix in conversations and inform on people. The Kuwaitis were altogether removed from some parts of the city, and Iraqi families took over their apartments.

Looting, which since the August invasion passed through both unrestrained and organized stages, ceased but everything is destroyed. The stores are empty. There is nothing to steal, said the Egyptian physician, who when he returned to Kuwait managed to secure and save some of his property. He even found his car undamaged in the garage. A colleague of his, who accompanied him, was not so lucky. He found his luxury apartment looted; the thieves removed his safe along with some of the wall. The chandeliers vanished, as did the air conditioner and the water heater.

It seems that the Kuwaiti resistance ceased to exist. At least, one no longer hears about it. It is no wonder for there are now more occupiers than original inhabitants in the city. Of course that does not mean that the Iraqi soldiers abstain from raids against civilians. Acts of intimidation are a daily occurrence, the Egyptian physician said.

Officials Claim $64 Billion in Damages

LD1112193390 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] London, Dec. 11, IRNA—Officials of Kuwait's former government have said that their country is owed

64 billion dollars by Iraq for stolen property, unpaid debts and damge caused by Iraq's August 2 invasion and consequent occupation.

Their claim comes as Westerners arriving back in their countries from Iraq, have spoken of Kuwait looking like a "scrap yard for Saddam's ragtag military, a wasteland of garbage, stripped automobiles, splintered furniture and scavenged appliances"

According to 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Awadi, who was minister of cabinet in the al-Sabah government, studies by exiled Kuwaiti officials show that there are grounds for massive war reparation claims which far exceed previous figures cited.

Kuwaitis have claimed that the value of stolen spare parts and supplies of special additives for Kuwait's refineries alone amounted to 500 million dollars.

If al-Awadi, a medical practitioner and former health minister is to be believed, equipment removed from Kuwait's 12 hospitals would cost some 2 billion dollars to replace.

He also said that Baghdad owes Kuwait 14 billion dollars in debts left over from the invasion of Islamic Iran which was bankrolled among others by the house of al-Sabah, which has been made to taste its own bitter pills.

Meanwhile, reports from Westerners returning home from occupied Kuwait, refer to the former emirate as a once centre of "urban affluence" which now "lies in ruins".

They have said that its people have been "reduced to sneaking bits of food into their apartments" and their "rules of behaviour (have been) laid aside by the need to survive."

According to reports in the British and American press Kuwaitis, Palestinians, Indians and other foreigners were living a meager existence, foraging for food.

A British hostage quoted in the DAILY TELEGRAPH on Tuesday said that while hiding in Kuwait "We were always afraid of the knock on the door". Another said that looters, many of them Iraqi soldiers, "were mostly after electrical goods, but the ransacking was unbelievable".

Information Minister on Gulf Crisis

NC1112112390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0639 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has stressed that the last chance call that U.S. President George Bush addressed to the Iraqi regime does not mean concession or relinquishment of the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council. On the contrary, this call is meant to emphasize these resolutions. In a statement to AL-AHRAM in its 11 December edition, he said that this call is a final attempt by the United States to spare Iraq, the region, and the world the effects of a devastating war that only God knows the extent. He expressed his hope that the voice of reason will prevail and that Saddam will withdraw his forces peacefully. [passage omitted]

Al-Ya'qub said that Kuwait is prepared to negotiate with Iraq but only after Iraq withdraws from its territory, particularly since we have rights. The least of these is to demand compensation for the material and moral losses that Iraq inflicted on Kuwait. He noted that Kuwait is prepared "after Iraqi withdrawal" to discuss the Iraqi allegations and Kuwaiti facts before an Arab, Islamic, or a UN committee. He pointed out that all international contacts with Iraq are conveyed to the Kuwaiti Government and that all these contacts take place within the framework of the Security Council resolutions.

Al-Ya'qub pointed out that after withdrawal and after the crisis is over, several concepts for establishing pan-Arab security must be changed. He affirmed that the multinational forces will leave the region as soon a the crisis is resolved. He said that Kuwaitis are currently being treated for physical and psychological effects in fraternal Arab countries caused by the rape, torture, and murder of their sons and wives by Saddam's soldiers. Concluding his statement, he said that the Kuwaiti resistance is currently following the method of passive confrontation in line with the government's desire to keep the people inside Kuwait despite the bestiality of Saddam's soldiers.

Oman

Qabus Receives Visiting Kuwaiti Delegation

NC1112185890 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] His Exalted Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received the Kuwaiti popular delegation at his office today. The discussion during the meeting dealt with all aspects of the Gulf crisis. The Kuwaiti delegation gave a detailed briefing on the real objectives and dimensions of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Qatar

Amir Receives Saudi Defense Minister

NC1112135490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 11 Dec (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; and Shaykh Hamad Bin-Sahim Al Thani, information and culture minister.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has reported that the meeting focused on the latest developments in and all aspects of the current crisis, which resulted from the brutal Iraqi aggression against and occupation of the State of Kuwait. The discussion also dealt with the common stand and moves by the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council toward this crisis, as well as the bilateral relations between Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ways of strengthening and promoting them in the various fields.

Minister Leaves for OPEC Meeting

NC1112135590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 11 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari interior minister and acting finance and oil minister, left Doha at noon today for Vienna to attend the OPEC ministerial meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow, Wednesday.

In a departure statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the Qatari minister said during the meeting a number of oil-related issues will be reviewed in a bid to maintain stability in the oil market, thus preserving the interests of both producers and consumers. The developments in the oil market since the last meeting of the OPEC follow-up committee in Vienna in August will also be discussed, he added.

The Qatari minister noted the importance of cooperation between the other oil-producing countries and OPEC members to ensure the continued supply of oil, and hoped this cooperation will increase in the future to the best interest and welfare of all parties.

Advisory Council Elects Speaker, Deputy Speaker

NC0812171790 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 8 Dec (WAKH)—The Qatari Advisory Council elected unanimously today 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah al-Hitmi as speaker of the council and Misnad Ibn-Sa'd al-Misnad as deputy speaker. The council also unanimously elected Sa'id Hamad al-Sulayti and Ahmad Muhammad 'Ubaydan Fakhru as rapporteurs.

The election was made following the inauguration of the 19th ordinary session earlier this morning under the chairmanship of 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah al-Hitmi in his capacity as the oldest member. Later the new 19 members were sworn in. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Aide Says Baker Trip No Victory for Saddam

PM1112112490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 90 p 7

[Interview with Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Faysal Bin-Turki Al Sa'ud, secretary general of the Royal Commission for al-Jubayl and Yanbu', by Huda al-Husayni in London; date not given: "Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Faysal Bin-Turki Al Sa'ud Says: Saudi Arabia's Aim To Secure Iraqi Withdrawal"]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] Some observers have said that U.S. President George Bush's announcement one day following the resolution adopted by the Security Council that he was sending his secretary of state, James Baker, to Baghdad was evidence of President Bush's confused method in handling the Gulf crisis, not evidence of the carrot and stick policy. What is your comment, as a Saudi?

[Prince 'Abdallah] As a Saudi, I feel that the international position on Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people is an honorable one. The states taking part in the effort to put pressure on the aggressor represent a widespread and major international consensus. This makes me feel that one of the objectives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the major governments is to try to do everything and to use every method to secure Saddam Husayn's withdrawal from Kuwait with minimum harm to lives and property in the Gulf region in general and in Iraq and Kuwait in particular.

President Bush's recent initiative falls in the context of the attempts to find a peaceful method to secure a withdrawal. There is no feeling of embarrassment about amending or changing a certain plan or line to achieve a supreme objective—peace. This does not mean that there has been any change in the determination of the Gulf states or the states participating in the military siege. I mean their determination to realize their objective—to remove the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

[Al-Husayni] But the Gulf and other states have maintained that they would not negotiate before withdrawal.

[Prince 'Abdallah] I do not believe that the initiative includes negotiations.

[Al-Husayni] Some interpret a mere meeting as the start of negotiations.

[Prince 'Abdallah] Not negotiations on the fundamental objectives. As we have heard, there will be no negotiations. But some Americans believe that Saddam Husayn is not familiar with the outside world and that it is only the media and propaganda men around him who are. We have heard that the Americans want to sit down with him face to face in order to tell him the facts of the situation.

[Al-Husayni] It is being said that an agreement was reached between Washington and Baghdad before Bush announced his initiative, that the timetable for withdrawal from Kuwait has been prepared, and that what is happening now is the planning. What is your comment?

[Prince 'Abdallah] We hope that what is being said is true. It is good news, but I have not heard anything about it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you not believe that President Bush's recent initiative is a point scored by Saddam Husayn?

[Prince 'Abdallah] No. If it eventually favors Kuwait, the Gulf, and the aims for which these forces came, then I do not regard it as victory for Saddam Husayn.

[Al-Husayni] If the objective since the outset has been peace, why are there all these forces in the region?

[Prince 'Abdallah] The objective has been, and still is, to remove the Iraqi Army from Kuwait, to liberate Kuwait, and to repatriate the Kuwaitis—not only peace. The objective is to remove the invader—peacefully or by force—within a reasonable period of time.

[Al-Husayni] Is war still possible?

[Prince 'Abdallah] Yes, because nothing has changed fundamentally.

[Al-Husayni] Why do you think Saddam Husayn agreed to receive the envoy of "God's enemy," as he calls Bush?

[Prince 'Abdallah] Because he is scared of war and because he knows that he is standing against the entire world; and no matter how strong he is, he cannot withstand a confrontation with these states or world public opinion. And because he is not a patriot who fears for his country, his Army, or the Arabs. And also because he has a criminal mentality and his concern is to retain power for himself. He is not a patriot prepared to die for his principles. His first and last aim is power. He fears confronting the world because he might lose power. He embroiled himself by invading Kuwait. He looked around and saw that the Arabs were in a weak condition, so decided to make certain moves. He thought that he was in control of the Arabs and that they had become afraid of him. He thought that he had become the absolute ruler. First, he issued a memorandum to which nobody responded resolutely. He knew that some states had no clear foreign policy, competent people, or monitoring bodies, but mere weak and aimless media reflecting the Arabs' psychological torment. He saw neglect. He is systematically trained in evil. In view of this Arab weakness, he decided to invade Kuwait at least to gain some billions [currency not specified] and to see what could be plundered and seized in accordance with his Al Capone mentality. He behaved like someone who, seeing a policeman guarding a street, decides to push him and, discovering that he has reached the end of the street, keeps on pushing.

This is my view. But he has discovered that occupying a country is different from crossing the street. He felt that he had become embroiled, so he decided to procrastinate, hiding behind the hostages. He thinks that war has been delayed because of his detention of the hostages. Perhaps this is true to some extent, but there was the question of military preparedness and the time needed for the forces to be ready. He thought that they would not be able to confront him, so he decided to stay. During that period the supporting forces were studying, planning, and deciding the options: Should they make preparations to fight in Kuwait alone and protect Saudi Arabia, or should they enter Baghdad as well?

I believe that the objective of the recent increase in the forces is to enter Baghdad. Those who have come to help the Gulf respect time and do not like to waste it. Some Arab states are advising these states to wait for the future, as though time were on their side. They cannot devote their time exclusively to resolving our problems. They have the ability and the desire to end the matter quickly and precisely. They respect public opinion in their countries. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] If Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, what guarantees will the Gulf states need in order to ensure that the Iraqi regime does not repeat what it did and invade another Gulf state?

[Prince 'Abdallah] I do not know what the guarantees are.

[Al-Husayni] If Baghdad is stormed, do you think the Saudi Army would take part in such an operation?

[Prince 'Abdallah] That is a hypothetical and difficult question. The supporting forces want the aggressor to know that they can reach Baghdad. But we Saudis are not interested in Baghdad or Iraq as a whole. Your question is provocative!

[Al-Husayni] Why provocative? A report published last Sunday [9 December] by THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH said that the Saudi Army is the only one of the Arab armies in the Gulf region which is fully trained, prepared, equipped with the latest weapons, and totally ready for zero hour! Are you ready to participate in liberating Kuwait, for instance?

[Prince 'Abdallah] Of course, the main objective is to liberate Kuwait, and we are all ready to participate in realizing that objective. [passage omitted]

Bush Initiative 'Difficult Test' for Saddam

JN1112203090 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 2 Dec 90 p 7

["Journalistic Thoughts" column by Khalil al-Fazzi': "Saddam and the New Test"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's initiative inviting Iraqi foreign minister to Washington and sending U.S. secretary of state to Baghdad puts Iraq's ruler to a difficult test. If he seeks peace, as he claims, here is an opportunity that may not come again. If, on the other hand, he ignores this opportunity, he will be viewed by his people as the accused. Any negative reaction to the initiative would mean Saddam is seeking to destroy himself and his people. But Saddam cannot possibly ignore this message, since it is sent to him from a position of real power—in the wake of the historic Security Council Resolution No. 678. In other words, the world is addressing Baghdad while having the authority to punish it if it misbehaves.

In one of its many aspects, Bush's message to Saddam highlights the importance of civilized dealings even with people you disagree with. But it would seem Saddam does not know this method. Had he known, he would not have attacked an Arab Muslim country, no matter what the motives and reasons were and no matter how sharp the differences were. Dialogue is the civilized way to overcome all differences; force, aggression, and treachery have been dropped from the dictionary of international relations. And even when nations resort to war, it is usually a declared, not a secret and treacherous war.

The flexibility that the world community has been showing since the beginning of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait supposes that Iraq will show similar flexibility to prove its good faith and desire for the hoped-for peace through the implementation of previous Security Council resolutions, which were crowned by Resolution No. 678. The latest resolution implicitly tells Iraq that it must comply with world unanimity in a manner that satisfies all parties and goes in line with international legitimacy, which guarantees Kuwait's rights and the restoration of its citizens and government.

When the U.S. President opens the door wide for Saddam to leave Kuwait with dignity, he expects Iraq's ruler to be at the same level of awareness in terms of appreciating the possible consequences of arrogance and obstinacy. But if it turns out that this is not the case, the world will not be responsible for the consequences of this arrogance and obstinacy. Saddam will be held directly responsible, and he will be severely punished by history, no matter how his allies try to justify his sin of occupying Kuwait, a sin he committed against himself, his people, and his nation; indeed, against the entire world.

Sane people in the world have found in the U.S. President's initiative a glimpse of hope for bringing about security in the region if Iraq's ruler rises to his historical responsibility and rushes to respond practically to this initiative. Any attempt by him to abuse this initiative would mean only one thing; namely, Saddam is seeking self-destruction; and then, he will have only himself to blame. His allies will have no excuse to support his obstinacy. We hope these allies will refresh Saddam's memory and remind him of the huge assistance the United States provided to him during his war with Iran and the military advice that allowed him to decide the eight-year war in his favor.

In its dreams, Iraq should not go as far as considering that President Bush's initiative is a victory for it, as it did with Mrs. Thatcher's resignation. Indeed, both cases constitute condemnation of Saddam's aggressive policy, just as they reflect civilized conduct that the Iraqi ruler was unable to match: He has neither left office for failing to lead the Iraqi people, nor has he came up with an initiative worthy of world respect. President Bush's initiative is nothing but a condemnation of Saddam's obstinacy and arrogance. The world community is now putting him to a new test.

Will Saddam fail this test, as he failed older ones, or will we see a surprise?

Iraq Aims To 'Gain Time' by Delaying Baker Visit

PM1112192790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Dec 90 p 13

[Editorial: "No Justification for War Over Dates"]

[Text] The major states and all the Security Council member states welcomed President George Bush's decision to call the Iraqi foreign minister to meet with him in Washington and his readiness to send his secretary of state to Baghdad to meet with the Iraqi president. Bush's decision was also welcomed by all the international coalition states—Arab, European, and others—especially after his affirmation that the objective of the meetings is to stress the need for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis and whatever is bound to help in that regard, that is, without any bargaining over their concept.

The U.S. President did not leave the call hanging in the air but hastened to fix a date for Tariq 'Aziz between 12 and 17 December, hoping that the Iraqi president would fix a date for James Baker in Baghdad between 20 and 30 December.

But the Iraqis remained silent for days and then surprised the U.S. Administration by setting 12 January as a date for Secretary Baker, that is three days before the end of the withdrawal ultimatum specified in Security Council Resolution 678, namely 15 January.

The date set for Baker by the Iraqi Government is mined and impractical for the three reasons: first, because it does not reflect good intent with regard to the willingness to cooperate with the international community to implement the Security Council resolutions. Second, because it reflects a desire to procrastinate, since three days are not sufficient to carry out the actual withdrawal before 15 January. Third, because it will not give any European foreign ministers the chance to visit Baghdad after Baker's visit because of the limited time remaining between his visit and the expiry of the Security Council ultimatum.

In fact there is absolutely no justification for the war over dates launched by the Iraqi Government if Baghdad really wishes to respond to the international will and the implementation of the Security Council resolutions. It reveals that Baghdad is aiming to apply further maneuvers to gain time and try to circumvent the concepts of the international organization's resolutions.

True, the U.S. secretary of state has not lost hope of Baghdad's reconsidering its position, moreover Iraq's UN ambassador regarded the disagreement over the dates as a "marginal question" over which a settlement can be reached, but Washington seems to be insisting on two things: not allowing Baghdad to procrastinate, and not being dragged into any measures that would allow the Iraqi president to turn his talks with Baker into negotiations.

The time has come for Baghdad to respond to the international consensus expressed by the Security Council resolutions. Any procrastination increases the sufferings of both the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis and the concerns of the peoples and states affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its implications and bad effects in all fields. And if Baghdad is really seeking a solution that will restore Kuwait's freedom and legitimate authority and spare the Iraqi people their suffering and the destruction of their facilities, bases, and forces, it must hasten to withdraw and compensate for the invasion, evacuation, and torture with good intent, the dressing of wounds, and the restoration of rights to their owners.

No Date Set for Bendjedid Saudi Visit

LD1112201490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1925 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Jeddah, 11 December, SPA—Following the reports carried by the media on an imminent visit by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to open a Saudi-Iraqi dialogue, a responsible source today made this statement to SPA:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which harbors all the feelings of affection and consideration for His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, would like to indicate that no date has been fixed for his excellency's visit to the Kingdom and that we wish his excellency all success in all the efforts he is always deploying in the interest of the Arab nation.

The source added:

While clarifying this fact, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms that it is totally convinced that the issue of ending the crisis in the Arabian Gulf is now, as everybody knows, in the hands of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who can respond to what the world has unanimously agreed upon and which is embodied in the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions; namely, the complete and unconditional withdrawal from the Kuwaiti territories; the restoration of legitimacy under the leadership of His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his government and their return to power; and the withdrawal of Iraqi military concentrations from the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

United Arab Emirates

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives 12 Dec

NC1212104990 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the second deputy prime minister, the defense and aviation minister, and the inspector general of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in the country before noon today on an official three-day visit. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, led those who welcomed his highness and the delegation accompanying him on their arrival.

Minister Leaves With Message for Kuwaiti Amir

NC1112102890 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, left the United Arab Emirates [UAE] for al-Ta'if this morning. He told WAM that he is taking an oral message from His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to his brother His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of fraternal Kuwait, connected with the current developments in the area, within the context of the constant coordination and consultations between the two leaders on the Kuwaiti issue and the ways to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

His highness is accompanied by a delegation comprising His Excellency Shaykh Tahir Sultan al-Qasimi, director of the legal and studies department at the Foreign Ministry; His Excellency 'Isa Khalfan al-Huraymil, UAE ambassador to Saudi Arabia [name and title as heard]; and His Excellency 'Ubayd Khalifah al-Za'abi, UAE ambassador to Kuwait.

Saddam Relieves Shanshal of Defense Minister Post

JN1212123090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1138 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has addressed a letter to General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal. The following is the text of the letter:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Comrade Abu-al-Muthanna ['Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal], may God's peace and blessing be upon you. After having carried out the trust by heading the Armed Forces General Staff with the characterstics of the faithful Arab soldiership, and after you reached the age of retirement, it was decided, in order to honor your noble services, to appoint you a minister of state. God willing, when the post of defense minister became vacant in 1989, you were the ready experienced man to carry out the trust to fill the vacant post immediately. When I entrusted you with the post of defense minister, you explained to me, with the trust of the believers, your circumstances regarding your long service and general health, and I told you that entrusting you with this post would not exceed two years, but it also would not be less than a year, God willing. We have now exceeded a year and come closer to the two years which I promised you your service in the post of defense minister would not exceed, and the choice has fallen on one of the comrades-in-arms to assume the post of defense minister.

We found that we are dutybound to restore the mujahid shaykh [Shanshal] to his old post of minister of state for military affairs so as to be at our side until God decrees what meets with His approval. God is our Lord, and He is the best of helpers.

[Signed] Your Comrade Saddam Husayn, 23 Jumada al-Ula 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 11 December 1990

Appoints New Defense Minister

JN1212123490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1141 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Presidential Decree No. 356]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Taking cognizance of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas, the inspector general of the Armed Forces, will be appointed minister of defense.

The ministers will carry out this decree.

Written in Baghdad this 24th day of Jumada al-Ula, 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 12 December 1990.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, President of the Republic

487 Foreign Nationals Leave Baghdad 11 Dec

JN1112190190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—Implementing President Saddam Husayn's order to release all the foreign nationals who were Iraq's guests, 487 foreign nationals of different nationalites who had been the guests of the Iraqi people left Baghdad this evening for home on board three Iraqi aircraft.

In statements to INA, the departing Iraqi guests thanked the Iraqi Government and people for the good treatment and hospitality they had been accorded during their stay.

They described President Saddam Husayn's order to allow all the Iraqi people's guests to leave or stay if they wished as a positive step toward a comprehensive peace in the region and that this step reflects Iraq's sincere desire to avert a destructive war.

155 Japanese Depart Baghdad for Bangkok

NC1112171290 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 11 (AFP)—An Iraqi Airways plane left here Tuesday for Bangkok carrying 155 freed Japanese hostages, airport sources reported. Japanese Embassy officials said the Boeing 707 was also carrying three Australians and a Thai national on a flight that took off at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT).

Prior to Tuesday's departure, there had been an estimated 190 Japanese held in Iraq, along with roughly 2,000 other foreigners. They had been kept by Iraqi authorities to deter an attack by U.S.-led multinational forces that deployed in the Gulf following the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

But President Saddam Husayn last Thursday called for the release of all the hostages, saying his troops were now prepared to defend Iraq.

Saddam Meets RCC Members, Information Minister

JN1112144190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1423 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has met with 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

'Aziz Denounces U.S. Stand at Security Council

JN1212113290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has denounced the United States' position at the UN Security Council, which constitutes total bias in favor of its strategic ally, the Zionist entity.

In a statement to INA, he said: The aforementioned Council has been discussing for more than a month a draft resolution submitted by the nonaligned group regarding the Zionist entity's refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 672 and 673 of 1990 without any results, despite the flexibility shown by those who submitted the draft resolution, contrary to the Council's hasty and feverish rashness to issue the unjust resolutions against Iraq, including those resolutions to starve its people and to deny them medicine and children's milk.

The minister added: The evil maneuvers, which are led by Washington and in which some parties are involved, are aimed at weakening the draft resolution as much as possible through the amendments that have been proposed by America's allies, and at stripping it of its substance. This is despite the fact that the proposed formula is basically weak and does not meet the just and legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, which were recognized by the international community through resolutions issued by the United Nations.

The minister said that the obstruction by the United States of the passage of a resolution to protect the Palestinian people from genocide at Zionist hands, and threats to use the veto prerogative by way of winning more concessions from the resolution sponsors against the wishes of the majority of the council members—coupled with the mounting brutal Zionist repression in the occupied land—confirm our earlier assertion that the UN Security Council, has, for all intents and purposes, become an American body run by a vicious U.S. Administration, and that the UN Charter and international law are being applied selectively so as to serve Washington's criminal allies in Tel Aviv.

'Aziz urged the Arab nation to close ranks and bring pressure to bear on the United States and its satellites to subscribe to the principle of linkage between the problems of the region and to find a fair solution to the Palestinian question as spelled out in His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister emphasized that Middle East peace and stability will continue to prove elusive as long as the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and statehood on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO remain unaddressed.

Ramadan Says Leadership Seeks Peace, Progress

JN0912153390 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 9, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, deputy premier, today received here the Czechoslovak parliamentary delegation headed by General Miroslav Vacek, member of the parliament and former defence minister.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan affirmed that the Iraqi leadership is endeavouring for engineering peace to continue progress and development.

The Czechoslovak delegation commended President Saddam Husayn's letter addressed to the Iraqi National Assembly on allowing all foreign nationals to travel, referring that this decision asserts strength of Iraq's attitude and is regarded as a tangible evidence on Iraq's keenness on preparing the ground for realising just and lasting peace in the region.

The delegation pointed out that foreign troops' occupation of the Arab land had contributed to complicating the affairs and hampering efforts exerted for reaching a peaceful solution.

The delegation stressed that the way of peace and dialogue is the serious and sincere way for settling all problems.

The delegation also confirmed on the necessity that the Arabs should adopt their problems and find the appropriate solutions to help achieve peace and security in the region.

Salih Says Gulf Part of 'Plot' Against Arabs

JN1012144390 Baghdad INA in English 1355 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 10, INA—Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly said the Iraqi people aspire for a stand by the American people against any call for war and aggression and to work for deepening world peace and avoiding a devastating war.

Speaking during a meeting with a delegation from the American-Iraqi Cultural Society, Mr. Salih said that all problems in the region were the outcome of the imperialist designs and attempts to control destinies of the peoples and realizing narrow and selfish interests adding that current conditions in the Gulf were part of a new plot against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The delegation members expressed high appreciation over Iraq's resolve for achieving rights on the basis of justice and equality and through peaceful means.

U.S. 'Must' Recognize Arab Rights in Talks

JN1012104990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec [date as received] (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH, the organ of the Defense Ministry, has affirmed that the priorities and bases of the principled Iraqi position on the Gulf crisis are the affirmation of its rights in the governorate of Kuwait on the bases of geography and history. In today's editorial, the newspaper says that the change that took place after 2 August has become a real fact on the ground and a deep-rooted fact to all countries. Washington must be aware of the reality of Washington's legitimate rights and acknowledge a strong Iraq over its complete national soil, practicing its regional role with a responsibility that guarantees all the legitimate interests—only—of all countries in the region, including the oil. The age of plundering the Arabs' wealth has gone since 2 August and the American dream to control the Arab oil has been disproved forever.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that these facts must be realized by the U.S. Administration which will embark on talks with Iraq. The file of the conflict should be comprehensive in these talks, not as America wants it. It wants the dialogue to be a cover and a preparatory step to launch a war, or a meeting to dictate conditions that will not help in achieving peace that is threatened by American bayonets.

The Iraqi paper says that the U.S. Administration should realize that the anticipated talks are not a way to achieve political and economic gains at the expense of Arab rights. The ethical entrance to any frank and in-depth dialogue on the problems of the region should stem from acknowledging these rights and the extent of injustice inflicted on the Arabs in contemporary history.

The paper warns Bush against insisting on playing the role of a policeman in the talks who wants to communicate to Iraq the decision of war with which he is threatening.

Jasim Says People, Army Can Deter 'Schemes'

JN1212135090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has stressed that Iraq and all honest, good people have deep faith that the United States will be destroyed if it seeks evil and aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation because its course is false and it is occupying the Muslims' sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

During a meeting today with the Iraqi-U.S. Cultural Association delegation, he said: Our people and Armed Forces are capable of deterring the evil schemes. If aggression is carried out against Iraq, then America's losses and those of the Atlantic forces, allying with it, will be very heavy. He added that the Iraqis' readiness to defend their dignity and land against the U.S. Administration's hostility is high, and that they are confident of achieving victory in the sacred battle.

He pointed out that the conflict in the region has become a conflict between the forces of the believers, which are supported by a billion Muslims, and the forces of infidelity, on whose behalf the Bush administration and its allies of the weakling Arabs are beating the drums of war.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that Iraq welcomes deep, constructive dialogue on views that would serve peace and avert war. He said that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative has created a new awakening among the ranks of the Arab nation's masses, and that it is aimed at reaching a lasting and comprehensive solution to all the region's issues, at the forefront of which is the Palestine question.

The minister reviewed the U.S. plot against Iraq and the Arab nation. He said that the conspiracy against Iraq did not begin on 2 August, but last March when the U.S. Congress issued its unjust resolutions against Iraq in a repeated attempt to weaken it because it represents the bright Arab history. He said that America, through its hegemony over the UN Security Council, prevents food, medicine, and milk from reaching Iraqi children.

Members of the delegation expressed their pride in President Saddam Husayn's leadership and his efforts to strengthen the Arabs and to continue to carry their message to mankind. They stressed that President Saddam Husayn's efforts to uphold the Arab nation's position is a source of pride for all Arabs in the American arena, and that this reinforces their self-confidence and places the Arab nation on the right course.

State Will Consider Israel 'Party' To Aggression

JN0912084790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH warns the United States that if war were to break out, it would be very destructive and more devastating than the Vietnam war.

In an editorial published today, the newspaper ridicules Bush's shameless claims made at his news conference about a quick and decisive war that would be different from the Vietnam war. The paper adds: If war were to erupt, it would not be a surprise for Iraq. War is expected, particularly that the evildoers have continued to fan its fires and pursue a policy of brinkmanship

The paper indicates that Bush can undoubtedly start the war. However, in no way can he end it by a decision of his. Ending the war would be determined by the will of great Iraq and the gathering of the faithful which is rallying behind Iraq's determination to defeat infidelity and inflict crushing defeat on the invaders and tyrants.

AL-THAWRAH notes that if Bush were to ignite war, the U.S. losses would not be confined to human losses, but would include material, moral, and political losses. The paper cautions Bush that if he were to invade Iraq, there would be no cheap oil. As a matter of fact, there would no oil whatsoever in the region, because all its wells will burn and be destroyed. Likewise, Israel will not remain in its present form, the paper adds.

The paper goes on to say: Iraq is not oblivious to the Zionist role in the so-called Gulf crisis despite the fact that this role is being kept in the dark. What Bush and Shamir should understand is that Israel will be considered a major party to any aggression targeting Iraq regardless of the direction from which it comes. As for Iraq's crushing and devastating response to such an aggression, it will be very quick.

The paper stresses that if war were to break out, its theater of operations would not be confined to Hafr al-Batin or the lands of the Governorate of Kuwait. It will expand to include all pillars and dens of the aggression and everywhere where there are U.S. interests. As for the lofty Iraqis, they will not be the sole knights in the crucial battle. The honorable Arabs and the gathering of the faithful will be on their side, the paper says.

The paper adds: The evildoers would be making a mistake if they delude themselves into believing that the confrontation will remain confined to the Governorate of Kuwait or to Hafr al-Batin. The fires of this war will burn all Bush's agents as well as the betrayers of the Arab nation, headed by the betrayer of the two holy mosques.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH describes the statements made by President Bush and his seretary of state about a quick, decisive, and sudden war as a mere new desperate attempt to push the U.S. Congress and people to endorse the military option.

Peace Should Safeguard State's Rights, Pride

JN0812102490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq does not seek war and aggression, but, at the same time, it seeks a peace that will maintain its full rights and safeguard its dignity and pride, achieved through the efforts of its sons and their generous sacrifices. In today's editorial under the headline "The Peace We Seek," the paper adds that—after Iraq completed the requirements of its military strength and capabilities so that the trenches in the arena of battle would not get mixed and those who did not fight and were not among the evildoers would not be trapped between the two trenches—President Saddam Husayn, with his known wisdom, called on the National Assembly to make the fair decision and allow all those on whom restrictions were placed to enjoy the freedom of travel.

AL-QADISIYAH said: While underscoring our efforts to lay down the bases of peace through practical, not formal practices, and while repeating our initiatives in this regard, we, at the same time, declare that we are highly prepared today, more than ever, to take on the honor of the confrontation and war, if it breaks out, in a way that will raise high the heads of honorable Arabs and Muslims and the good people in the world; the advocates of aggression and those seeking war will be placed in a great confusion and dilemma.

The paper warns that the power possessed by Iraq will wipe out the enemies' schemes and arrangements, and crush their invading aggressive buildup. At the top of those who will be toppled by the fire and hell of war are Bush himself and those who are sitting on the shaky seats of power in Egypt and in Najd and Hejaz, the agents Husni and Fahd.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says that when Iraq declares its ability to decide the confrontation—should it take place—in its favor and in the interest of the justice it is defending, it, in fact, is repeating this assertion because of its honest principles seeking to avert harm and evil with everything in its possession. At the same time, Iraq endeavors to consolidate the pillars of peace and security.

Paper Comments on U.S. 'Double Standards' at UN

JN0912104790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH today said that the discussions under way at the Security Council on the Palestine question project to the world an ugly example of the United States' behavior toward various international issues and the double standards it employs in order to impose it hegemony and guardianship, and to secure its interests and those of its allies, primarily the Zionist enemy.

In an article entitled "The Security Council and U.S. Legitimacy," the paper points out that because the Security Council reflects a single global outlook, whose basis is the material and moral weight which the member-states enjoy, the United States has put its full weight so that total domination of the Council would be one of the pillars of the new international order whose slogan it has advocated and which it considered as its strategic objective in the next stage.

The paper explains that the United States has exercised all forms of pressures and blackmail to render the Security Council completely unable to issue any serious resolution which protects the Palestinian people from Zionist terrorism and regains their legitimate rights.

The paper adds that the U.S. legitimacy mandated rapid action when the matter was related to issuing a resolution against Iraq and the Arabs because they defended their rights and rejected injustice. But when it comes to the Zionist entity and its terrorism, the selfsame U.S. legitimacy advocates calmness and rationality and giving room for more consultations.

The paper concludes: The United States wants the world to understand its legitimacy through this approach, although, by all standards, it lacks the minimum level of justice. Any impartial observer can point to the reality of the dark tunnel into which the United States is driving the world so as to achieve its evil aggressive objectives. The paper wonders: Can this be acceptable?

AL-THAWRAH Rejects Talks as 'Cover' for War

JN0912095590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has called on the United States to fully comprehend that Kuwait returned to its kinsfolk and origin in Iraq, by virtue of an eternal, irreversible decision.

In an article today on the forthcoming talks between the United States and Iraq, the paper says that is self evident that the Iraqi delegation should cling to Iraq's legitimate national and historical rights, including its rights in the Governorate of Kuwait, because all historical, geographical, and political facts confirm beyond doubt that Kuwait is part of a whole and a branch of a root, and that this whole and root is Iraq, and that it is no longer acceptable or possible to return the situation to what it was before 2 August.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Iraq rejects using the proposed talks to serve merely as a cover for Bush to convince Congress to approve the military option under the pretext that he has exhausted all peaceful efforts with Iraq.

The paper also asserts that Iraq rejects Bush assuming the role of an informing policeman only, saying that he should seek true, serious, in-depth and equal dialogue in which each party presents the issues and considerations on which its position is based, and tries to convince the other party of the position which it believes to be the right one.

The paper adds that Iraq reasserts that the historic initiative put forward by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August constitutes the correct approach to resolving the problems of the region, primarily the Palestine question.

The paper adds that adopting a single outlook and standards in dealing with the issues of the region is the guarantee to reach a radical and just solution to them, and to establish a complete and comprehensive peace in the region. As for the criteria and double standards adopted by the United States thus far, they cannot resolve a problem nor establish comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper concludes its article by asserting that Iraq can never change its constant principled stands, nor can it, under any circumstances, relinquish or reverse its inalienable national and historical rights.

Paper Warns of U.S. War Under Saudi 'Cover'

JN1012111790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—AL-'IRAQ affirms that the United States is trying through the Fahd regime to find a convincing justification—from the U.S. Administration's viewpoint—to start the war against Iraq under a Saudi cover. In today's editorial, AL-'IRAQ says that these maneuvers and games by the United States cannot deceive the Iraqis, the Arabs, the Muslims, or humanity. Aggression is aggression regardless of its identity and color.

AL-'IRAQ notes that the fire will not be confined to one area; and no military force whose mission has been defined to commit aggression on Iraq will be spared. All will pay the price of their arrogant aggression and their mistaken estimations of the strength of the other party, that is, Iraq and all the believers of freedom, independence, and the Arab nation's right to life, existence, and cultural and human progress.

The Iraqi paper calls on public opinion at these times to be alert and vigilant toward the new plans of American imperialism. They are showing their skills in preparing the methods and using the covers which they believe are appropriate to launch war against Iraq and ignite a conflagration in the region and the world.

Concluding, AL-'IRAQ says that Iraq is not like the other countries that were the target of U.S. aggression and invasion in any continent in the world. And, for those who want to try their chances the road is open, and the aggressors will suffer the consequences.

Paper Comments on U.S. 'Double Standards'

JN1012110790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that what is currently taking place in the UN Security Council shows unequivocally how selective the Bush administration is, how it adopts double standards, and how balatantly biased it is toward the racist Zionist entity, and to what extent it is willing to go in antagonizing our Arab nation and its just causes in Palestine and the Arabian Gulf.

In an article today, the paper adds that the UN Security Council has been constantly forced over the past month to postpone its discussion of the cause of our Palestinian Arab people through the discussion of the Al-Aqsa mosque massacre and the rejection of the Zionist enemy of the resolutions that the UN Security Council and international legitimacy have adopted.

The paper explains that the fifth postponement of the deliberations of the UN Security Council has taken place because the U.S. Administration does not want the council to condemn the Zionist entity. It also does not want the council to call for an international conference for peace in the Arab region. At the same time, the U.S. Administration does not want to use the veto for the 82d time to protect the Zionist entity from being condemned by the international community.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that perhaps the U.S. Administration now realizes that it stood completely exposed before international public opinion after it succeeded, thanks to its hegemony on the UN Security Council, to make it pass 12 unjust and illegal resolutions against Iraq and the Arab nation while it prevents the adoption of a resolution that calls for peace in the Middle East, which is one of the basic tasks of the UN Security Council.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying that regardless of the result of the voting tonight, or of the postponement for the sixth time, the world at large now stands witness to the hypocrisy and deception of the U.S. Administration and the methods of pressure and maneuvering the Bush administration adopts to protect the Zionist entity and its midget agents.

Military Analyst Views U.S. War Strategy

JN0812144290 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 8, INA—An Iraqi military analyst has warned American Administration that the duel, had it taken place, would not be conventional and its logistic calculations and planning would be colliding with pecularity of the Iraqi retaliation and nature of its non-traditional fields measures.

Major General Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim in his analysis under the theme of "American Administration and Decision of Approaching War," published here today by AL-QADISIYAH daily has said that in linking the events and benefiting from the near lessons singled out by circumstances of the crisis, there should be some concentration on a certain fact which is that failure of American measures and variables it has depended for attaining its goals in Iraq, has taken place because of what President Saddam Husayn's management was distinguished with, namely, firmness, clarity and sound expectations of the American attitude.

It has further added that variables of the American decision have also remained within the Iraqi beforehand estimates and active measures of containing them, and the decision of approaching war is not outside these estimates and measures.

He has further confirmed that the American Administration, while it realizes the fact of this matter, so its insistence on triggering war under motives of success that it should gain in the first test of its international authority after termination of the cold war, and what retraction from the military option in the Gulf crisis would constitute of damages to this authority and prestige, is but a calculated adventure whose cost would be much bigger than its effect. It is the outcome that the option of war would end if the American Administration insisted on taking this option.

The Iraqi military analyst have reviewed the escalating fever of the American statements towards threatening and aggression and the increase in activity of military measures and decisions and said that this was a new scenario in the style of approaching the implementation of the military option after it had failed during the first period of American forces deployment in the region and the stages that followed that.

He has further added that the timing which Bush has announced for implementing the military option and his justification of that as being the period enough for getting acquainted with outcomes of sanctions imposed on Iraq, can not be of avail in preparing the way for approaching the military option, not only because of the failure to which it has ended but also because of what war advocates on the American aggression front are confirming, including Kissinger who says when failure of sanctions becomes clear, the military option would have vanished.

He has also pointed to the real motives behind timing the aggression, accroding to the American justification to secure approachment to war and Bush's administration endeavour to provide time necessary for deployment and investment of the American resolution issued by the Security Council which authorized the use of force against Iraq, in addition to investment of the abovementioned in launching a distinguished psychological war to influence the Iraqi decision and stance.

Paper Says Next Battle Not Conventional

JN1112132090 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 11, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily for today said that with their determination to defeat the aggressors, the Iraqis had turned into an invincible shield, a human shield, backed by weapons beyond the expectation of the Pentagon and small agents like the rulers of Saudia and Egypt, Fahd and Mubarak.

The daily added that the battle with Iraq would not be that easy for in the battleground, the Iraqis' surprise response would prove wrong all the calculations the enemies made, and at that time, the aggressors would realize that the next battle would not be a conventional one.

It went on saying that the great battle should be written down in the record of the Arab and Islamic history to clear up the way for the coming generations.

The paper stressed that Bush and the warmongers' insistence to escalate the hostile attack against Iraq through resorting to the language of threat and blackmail could in no way force Iraq to relinquish its firm stances in dealing with the region's issues on an equal footing.

It pointed out that Bush and his advisors and aides had sought all unacceptable routes, believing that Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, would be an ordinary case according to their standards in classifying states and leaderships of the Third World.

It concluded that Bush and his allies should not deceive themselves any longer and that they had to give up their fallacious dreams.

Spokesman Views U.S. 'Piracy' Against Libyans

JN1112185590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1822 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—Iraq has expressed solidarity with the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah in its quest for the repatriation of its citizens who the U.S. forces have been moved by force from Ndjamena to an unknown destination.

An official Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly denounced the U.S. authorities' act of piracy, saying: While expressing solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah in its quest for the repatriation of its citizens, Iraq strongly denounces the role of global policeman being played by the United States in many parts of the world.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that the transportation of Libyan prisoners by the United States, which is a nonbelligerent party, confirms that Washington is giving itself the role of policeman without international authorization, exactly as it did regarding the unjust resolutions that it imposed on the UN Security Council to tighten the inhuman blockade against Iraq.

The spokesman warned that the U.S. failure to abide by any constraints or norms will make the United States and the world fall into unnecessary problems. Therefore, the issue of the Libyan prisoners should have been tackled by officials in Libya and Chad in accordance with sovereignty and human rights and without foreign intervention in the affairs of the two neighboring countries.

Iraq-U.S. Cultural Society Calls for Peace

JN0912154490 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 9, INA—The delegation of the Iraqi-U.S. Cultural Society participating in the peace camp in Baghdad, hailed President Saddam Husayn's peaceful initiative on August 12, confirming that it was a wise move which would tackle all region's pending issues and establish peace and security in the region.

Mr 'Abd-al-Zahrah Nasir, chief of the society, said President Husayn's initiative reflected Iraq's unwavering stance in dealing with the problems of the region with a criterion. [sentence as received]

He pointed out the U.N. double-standard policy in issuing and implementing its resolutions under the U.S. influence.

Mr 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Qaysi, deputy chief of the society said that the American people understood Iraq's peaceful point of view and its persistent endeavours to ward off war specter from the region on basis of equality and justice.

Member of the society, Dr Joseph Shakkuri, stressed that dialogue is the only feasible way to settle problems and save the region scourges of a destructive war.

UN Chief's Comments on Military Action Assailed

JN0912100890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that the statements made by Javier Perez de Cuellar the day before yesterday reflect the shaky and helpless position to which the United Nations has sunk during his time.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper criticizes Javier Perez de Cuellar's statement that he would feel sorry if the UN Security Council [UNSC] members were to attempt to initiate military action against Iraq because he is a man of peace, but that he would not oppose such a move.

The paper adds: Recent events have shown that the United States has replaced the United Nations and the UNSC, and assumed their responsibilities regarding tackling world issues according to its imperialist interests. It has failed to heed the interests of the peoples affected by these issues. Moreover, it could not care less that it has placed the United Nations in a very embarrassing situation.

AL-'IRAQ affirms that given this situation, all countries of the world who make up the United Nations are no longer capable of counterbalancing a single country; namely, the United States. The paper adds that the UN member states which desire to see this world body play an effective role in resolving disputes and in bringing about univeral solidarity, should play a role that would restore the prestige of the United Nations which is, in effect, the world's prestige in the face of tyranny.

Paper Examines 'War of Starvation'

JN0912111890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has called on the international community to assume its responsibility in stopping the war of starvation that has been launched by the United States against the Iraqi people.

In an article today, the paper notes that the majority of the international community and world public opinion today see that the trends and results of the unjust U.S.

embargo imposed by Bush contradicts and conflicts with the simplest humanitarian concepts and values.

The paper says that a number of countries and humanitarian organizations have adopted positive steps by sending some necessary medical supplies and medicines to Iraq, which will help alleviate some of the human suffering and meet some of the patients' needs in terms of treatment.

The paper expresses confidence that those who speak of peace, international law, and human rights, respect principles and values, and are concerned over friendship with Iraq, the Arabs, and the Muslims, are capable of adopting positions which express their convictions without hesitation and submission to the U.S. guardianship along with what it entails. They, more than others, are deeply aware of the damage, and the direct and indirect dangers resulting from the continuation of the blockade of food and medical supplies to Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH calls on the countries and powers which do not want war and are concerned about peace to take the initiative and adopt practical measures that will ensure the lifting of the unjust and inhuman embargo on the food supplies which Iraq had bought or contracted to buy, but which are still being held at ports, on the high seas, or redirected to other locations.

Paper Warns Israel of 'Annihilation'

JN1212085790 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0720 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has warned Israel of total annihilation if it attempts aggression against Iraq.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: If the Zionists are involved in any aggression against Iraq, then this will be their inevitable end, especially since their punishment should be very harsh for their occupation of Arab territories and cities, their criminal and savage actions against the sons of Palestine in the occupied territories, and for their actions and muscle-flexing against Iraq and the Arab nation. The paper stresses: For all these reasons, Israel is an entity that carries the factors of its own destruction.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes Israel's role in invading the Arab and Islamic sanctities. It stresses that for its major role in invading Mecca, Medina, and holy Jerusalem, Israel will not escape severe punishment.

The paper describes Israel as the main enemy of Iraq and the Arab nation. It says: It will receive the punishment it deserves because it is a profound obstacle to this great nation's progress, development, and the achievement of its sublime objectives of liberation, awakening, and the effective contribution to the march of mankind.

The paper says that the language of threats, the muscle-flexing, and the targeting of Iraq's vital capabilities and installations is a language that Iraq is fully aware of, just as it is aware of its goals and objectives. Before the great battle, and through the leader of the believers, Saddam Husayn, Iraq has said on more than one occasion that it will not allow this, regardless of the consequences.

AL-'IRAQ Criticizes Ozal's Gulf Stance

JN0912110490 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that the interactions currently taking place on the Turkish scene regarding the Gulf events are reminiscent of the positions of the political parties and army commanders against Adnan Menderes' determined efforts to fetter Anatolia with military alliances and treaties that undermined the sovereignty of Turkey.

In a commentary published today, the paper recalls the bloody massacres which took place at the monument of Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, in 1960 and expresses the hope that the sons of the friendly neighboring Turkish people will not see a replay of this tragedy, and that reason, and common sense will govern the Turkish Government's positions and measures toward Iraq. It is also hoped that the Ozal government will not forget historical and geographic considerations when it formulates its stands, the paper adds.

AL-'IRAQ views the resignation of [Turkish] Army Chief of Staff General Necip Toromtay as a strong cry of protest against the involvement of President Turgut Ozal in the hostile U.S. military adventure in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula and against its participation in the anti-Iraq provocative measures, especially as regards the economic blockade.

AL-'IRAQ refers to the repercussions of Ozal's involvement in Washington's hostile scheme and its negative effects on Turkish interests and says that these ill-considered and irrational policies which contravene the principles of good neighborliness, Islamic ties, and the history of friendly ties with Iraq, have caused grave damage to the Turkish people's national interests and economy.

The paper indicates that Turkey's losses as a result of Ozal's policies are estimated at billions of dollars. It adds: The pursuit of these policies has brought about a standstill in the trade and economic domains and caused various industrial sectors to go out of business, and tens of thousands of workers to lose their means of livelihood.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on 'Destroying Aggression'

JN1112133790 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0800 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that Iraq, which is leading the awakening of the Arabs and Muslims, is capable of destroying the aggression if it begins, and of crushing the other enemies that are protected by the American forces.

In an article today, the paper says: Only simple-minded people believe the claims of the enemies, who mobilized their armies and invaded the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], that they have come to the region for the sake of international legitimacy or to protect the shaky thrones that fear the blowing of popular winds. The United States, which used all its political and military weight, mobilized its forces, and issued the ill-omened resolutions, would not do all of this for the sake of this or that rich ruler, but to implement a policy that it planned before the 2d of August.

The paper points out that the U.S. Administration's main goal is to get rid of Iraq's power, which restored regional balance between the Arabs and their enemies, so as to guarantee the fascist, aggressive Zionist entity's superiority.

The paper adds: Zionist entity prime minister terrorist Shamir's visit to the United States is to ensure the continuation of the American stand that is agreed on in advance between Washington and Tel Aviv, toward dealing a blow to Iraq's power with the aim of continuing the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation, and the encroachment of Arab rights. Shamir himself revealed this objective when he said that "Iraq's war machine should not be allowed to remain in tact if the Gulf crisis is resolved peacefully."

Concluding its article, the paper says: The enemies are exposing their intentions and pale faces everyday. However, they are deluded if they imagine that Iraq is an easy morsel, especially since this Iraq, which is leading the awakening of the Arabs and Muslims, is capable of destroying the aggression if it begins and of crushing the other enemies that are protected by the American forces. If fighting erupts, then the Iraqi fire of right will spare none of the dens of evil.

Public Security Body Plans for Nuclear Attack

JN1112200190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri, head of Iraqi Public Security, has said that the citizens of Baghdad and major Iraqi cities will be evacuated in case of a nuclear, chemical, or bacterial attack launched by the United States or Israel. The Iraqi paper AL-THAWRAH today quoted al-Duri as saying that Civil Defense announced expanded programs in the past weeks to train Iraqi citizens on evacuation and protection preparations against any nuclear, chemical, or bacterial attack.

Rajiv Gandhi Adviser Arrives With Saddam Message

JN0912192490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Ramesh Bhandari, adviser to Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Indian National Congress, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, Bhandari said that he was carrying a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Rajiv Gandhi dealing with bilateral relations and current developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

He was received at the airport by the head of the Foreign Ministry's second political department and the Indian Embassy staff in Baghdad.

Received by Official

JN0912192690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Ramesh Bhandari, adviser to Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Indian Congress Party and former Indian prime minister. During the meeting, they reviewed major developments in the region.

Urges Dialogue on Gulf Crisis

JN1112073190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Ramesh Bhandari, adviser to Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Indian National Congress and former Indian prime minister, has valued Leader President Saddam Husayn's decision to grant the foreign guests of Iraq the freedom to travel or stay in Iraq if they wish. He termed this decision as a sincere message of peace to be added to the record of repeated Iraqi peace initiatives.

In a statement to an INA correspondent, he added that this decision epitomizes President Saddam Husayn's humane sentiments and reflects the views of a man with high social values. He added that the outstanding problems in the Arab region, which he described as the most important in terms of strategic considerations, should enjoy the benefit of peace efforts based on dialogue and civilized negotiations which must be made by the international community, away from the use of force, or the threat to use it.

Ramesh Bhandari paid tribute to Leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August. He added that this initiative sheds light on the injustice and unfairness plaguing international relations and provided proper solutions to all outstanding problems in the Arab region so that justice and peace may prevail all over the world.

Japan Socialist Party Delegation Departs 9 Dec

JN0912214790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The Japan Socialist Party [JSP] delegation led by Issei Inoue, chief of the JSP's International Affairs Bureau and member of the Japanese Parliament, left Baghdad today following a four-day visit to Iraq.

The Japanese delegation held talks with a number of Iraqi officials.

CPCZ Leader Expresses Sympathy, Praises Initiative

JN1012101190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a message from Pavol Kanis, leader of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ], in which he expressed his sympathy with Iraq, affirming the mutual joint friendship between the two countries and the joint cooperation in the technical and economic fields. He added that the CPCZ believes that negotiations and peaceful methods—together with international guarantees—are the best way to resolve the crisis.

The CPCZ leader praised the leader president's 12 August initiative to resolve all problems in the region and achieve just peace.

Peace Organization Head Receives U.S. Delegation

JN0912213390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—'Adnan Dawud Sulayman, head of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization received 'Abd-al-Zahrah Nasir, head of the U.S. Cultural Association and the accompanying delegation.

The head of the organization briefed the guest on the relations and historical roots of the link between Iraq and Kuwait, and the suspect role of British colonialism in severing this vital part from southern Iraq.

They also reviewed the situation in the region and the escalation of developments by the United States and its allies, which threaten to ignite a destructive war in the region. The head of the organization emphasized Iraq's constant peaceful approach that seeks to avert war and prefers dialogue as the means to resolve all the issues of the region on a just, equal basis.

Human Rights Society Calls for Lift of Siege

JN1012105490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi human rights society has called on all parties and committees concerned with human rights in the world to assume their responsibilities and exert their utmost efforts to lift the economic siege that is imposed on the Iraqi people and sons.

In a statement distributed today on the 42d anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the society said that the economic siege that is imposed on Iraq, which has caused the death of 1,416 children, not to mention the unjust measures that have accompanied this siege, conflict with the most basic humanitarian values, the provisions of Article 54 of the Second Geneva Convention of 1949, and Article 72 of the special protocol of the 1977 Geneva Convention.

In its statement, the society explains that the issuance of this unjust resolution violates the UN charter, and the right to existence that is contained in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the UN General Assembly issued on 10 December 1948.

Medicine Shipments From Denmark Arrive

JN1112174590 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Dec 90 p 3

[By Ra'd 'Abd-al-Jabbar]

[Text] Yesterday, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society received the first consignment of medicines donated by the Danish Red Cross Society to the Iraqi people.

The ceremony marking the delivery of medecines was attended by Torben Dithmer, the Danish ambassador to Iraq, who deputized for the Danish Red Cross Society at the ceremony.

The Danish ambassador held a news conference at the Red Crescent Society building. The conference was attended by Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, and the head of the international group for peace in the Arabian Gulf. The Danish ambassador said this consignment, which weighs 1,700 kg, includes 989 kg of antibiotics, 72 kg of insulin, 131 kg of the dybrakine [as published] substance. The consignment is worth over 500,000 Danish kroners.

The Danish ambassador added that this is the first of several consignments the Danish Red Cross will send to support the Iraqi people and implement the resolutions of the Executive Council of the International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which met in October.

Dr. al-Nuri extended thanks and appreciation to the Danish Red Cross Societies that sent this medical aid, which will strengthen relations between the two societies in the service of humanitarian principles.

On the same subject, Dr. al-Nuri said that a shipment of medicines donated by the Turkish Red Crescent Society had arrived in the country yesterday. He said the shipment includes three large trucks.

He added that another shipment of medicines donated by the Netherlands Red Cross Society will arrive in the country soon.

POW's Return From Iran Via 'Special' Plane

JN0812153790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1518 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—A new batch of 200 Iraqi POW's arrived in the homeland this afternoon aboard a special Iraqi plane.

Upon arrival, the POW's cheered Iraq and President Saddam Husayn.

In statements to INA, they also expressed their pride in the homeland as well as their readiness to be loyal soldiers to defend it under all circumstances.

Shamir More Pleased With U.S. Relations

TA1212060590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by 'Oded Ben-'Ami on 11 December in Washington—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr. Prime Minister, your previous meeting with President Bush took place more than a year ago. In today's meeting, the President said he was very glad to receive you. Do you believe that from a personal view all possible controversies and communication difficulties were overcome?

[Shamir] There has been much exaggeration in the gloomy description of relations with me. I attach no significance to the matter of personal relations. Each of us represents a different body; as for me, I represent the State of Israel. This time, I must note, I have more cause to be pleased and satisfied than last year.

[Ben-'Ami] Yesterday in New York you mentioned your apprehension that a group of countries other than the Arabs are liable to try to appease Saddam Husayn at Israel's expense. Have you received a promise from President Bush that no such deal will be made, and that none will be made at our expense?

[Shamir] He did not make such a promise, but I understand from his explanation of his policy that the United States will not be part of such a group of countries, if one is formed.

[Ben-'Ami] As for the absorption of immigration, although you did not specify to President Bush the nature of the aid which Israel requests, you did ask for aid. Will we receive such aid from the United States?

[Shamir] I hope so. We need to work toward that end; these things are not accomplished in one conversation.

[Ben-'Ami] The peace process, the Israeli-Arab conflict, is an issue that must have been mentioned in your meeting with the President. Were new ideas raised? Were you requested to suggest new ideas?

[Shamir] No, no, we did not go into any details. I was not asked to specify details. Our conversation did not focus on this issue, and, therefore, there was no place to expand on it. It was obvious, however, that we will pursue the issue in the near future.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

Shamir Meeting With Bush 'Positive,' 'Friendly'

TA1112174690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Report by Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] The meeting between President George Bush and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today was the first for a little over a year. It started at precisely 1700 [1500 GMT]. George Bush said that he was very happy to receive the prime minister in his office and that he wishes all his friends in Israel a Happy Hanukah. The U.S. side was also represented by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. The Israeli side was also represented by Ambassador Zalman Shoval. The meeting lasted for some 90 minutes and when it ended the prime minister talked to us a few minutes ago:

[Begin Shamir recording] I can say without hesitation that it was a very positive, good, and friendly meeting. We discussed the problems linked to the Gulf crisis, which of course is the main problem these days, and we more or less reached an overall understanding on all the moves involved and Israel's status within that situation. We also discussed Israeli-U.S. relations. I told him about the large aliyah and our desire for U.S. aid. We also discussed other problems, the peace process, etc. [end recording]

On the aliyah issue, the prime minister said he did not receive any assurances from President Bush about U.S. aid. On the peace process, we asked if the prime minister had brought new ideas with him, and Mr. Shamir answered that immediately upon his return home, Dennis Ross, a senior State Department official, and two of his aides, Daniel Kurtzer and Dr. (Earl Miller), would be coming here to discuss with the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister the various aspects of the peace process.

To repeat, it was the first meeting for 18 months. The impression gained from the smiles is that there was an attempt by both leaders to try, if not to bridge the differences between them, then at least to put them aside for another time because Jerusalem and, of course, Washington agree that the Gulf is the main issue on the agenda. [passage omitted]

Paper Comments on Bush-Shamir Meeting

TA1212104390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Dec 90 p 3

[Commentary by Washington correspondents Eytan Haber and Rami Tal: "The Name of the Game: Postponement"]

[Text] Yesterday's meeting between President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir could be summed up with the well-known Israeli saying "after the holidays." In other words, do not do today what you can do tomorrow and you had better put off for the day after tomorrow.

The Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestinian problem no longer give the man sitting in the White House and his colleagues in the State Department reason for a headache. The administration has been putting aside all its business in order to deal with the Gulf crisis. When they have 400,000 American mothers fearing for their sons' lives thousands of miles away from home, George Bush and James Baker cannot be troubled with stones in the al-Jalazun refugee camp. In today's Washington, the Palestinian problem is a loser.

Instead of dissecting what the lengthy meeting between Bush and Shamir contained, it is worth noting what it did not contain: The traditional condemnation of Israel for human rights violations in the territories, the problem of Israel's relations with South Africa, and the peace process. These issues were either not raised at all or discussed in passing.

Bush must secure his flanks before he makes a fateful decision, and he is worried that Israel may play some trick on him that will be incompatible with the political and military moves he is planning. That is why he had to meet Shamir (to reassure U.S. Jewry), and that is why the talk had to be pleasant and not touch upon issues which could have seriously upset the guest. Bush reiterated his praise for the "low profile" policy so that Israel will continue to toe the line and blend in with all other U.S. allies.

As part of this effort, the President was willing to voice understanding and solidarity with the problems of aliyah and its absorption, although not to the point of making any actual promises about aid. He presumably kept back the question of aid to use it as a stick—or a carrot—when the need arises.

This is apparently how things stand today. For our part, we had better get ready for "after the holidays," namely, for what will happen after the Gulf crisis is settled in one way or another. That is when we will be presented with the bill.

Levi on Readiness for Talks 'Without Preconditions'

TA0512124790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has again announced that Israel is ready to negotiate with every Middle Eastern country without preconditions. David Levi was replying to motions to the Knesset's agenda on the meeting between President Bush and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Our correspondent Yaron Toren brings excerpts of the foreign minister's remarks:

[Begin Levi recording] If there is a chance that the regional Arab countries might enter into peaceful negotiations with Israel, should I say: I have a condition to present to you in advance, and then end up not sitting with some country? My answer to that is no. Israel is prepared to sit down with every Middle Eastern country that is interested in signing a peace treaty with it anywhere, anytime, and without preconditions. [end recording]

Commentary Says Bush Move 'Bad for Israel'

TA0212142590 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
2 Dec 90 pp A1, 2

[Commentary by 'Amos Gilbo'a: "Giving in to Blackmail"]

[Text] Is it bad for Israel or perhaps good for Israel? Bush's surprise move, even before the U.S.-Iraqi talks begin, is bad for Israel for the following reasons:

—The Americans have, in fact, given in to Iraqi blackmail. Until Friday, the steadfast position of the United States was: No talks with Saddam Husayn, except after he withdraws unconditionally from Kuwait and frees all the hostages; only after the situation in Kuwait returns to what it was before 2 August, 1990. It was the Iraqis who called for a dialogue all the time and were presented with an unequivocal U.S. refusal.

—Giving in to blackmail, even if presented by Bush as a tactical move, implies U.S. weakness and a caving in in the eyes of Saddam Husayn, and to the United State's allies, especially the Arab states, led by Saudi Arabia.

The future talks themselves pose a danger for Israel in the political and strategic fields:

—The political field: Iraq declared from the start that it accepts the Bush proposal in order to conduct negotiations centered on a solution to the Palestinian problem. In other words, a complete tie between the Gulf crisis and Israel. I do not believe that the United States will "sell" us out in order to please the Iraqis, but if Iraq manages to start negotiations a settlement might be worked out, which might then be joined by the European and Arab states, and then we will be discussed without our presence!

Israel's supreme interest is to make sure that it prevents the U.S.-Iraqi talks from sliding into negotiations in general and negotiations on the Palestinian issue in particular.

—The strategic aspect: The dynamics of contacts can lead to a situation in which U.S. determination to apply military force is tested. It should be assumed that the Iraqis will, in the future, pull one rabbit after the other out of the bag and will put the U.S. Administration in the position of facing a Pandora's box of accusations both at home and abroad: Why use force? There is a good chance for a peaceful solution! In that way time will pass, 15 January will go by, the month-long fast of Ramadan will arrive, and Saddam will celebrate.

It is therefore clear that if Bush's move leads to any sort of agreement with Iraq our situation will be bad: We will face a victorious Saddam Husayn under very difficult political conditions.

Israel's big chance is that, despite the dynamics, the United States will remain firm in its positions and Saddam Husayn will not be prepared to give up Kuwait. In such a scenario—and that is my evaluation—Saddam will not give in completely over Kuwait and then it will become clear that there is no other choice but to implement a military move against Iraq.

Contacts Reported With Iraq on Disarmament

TA1212085290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
12 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's public announcement about his government's willingness to be part of a regional nuclear disarmament process in the Middle East did not take Jerusalem by surprise, considering that contacts on the issue had been held on the Jerusalem-Cairo-Baghdad axis during the months prior to the Gulf crisis.

Diplomatic sources in Israel say that Barazan Takriti, Saddam Husayn's brother, held contacts in Geneva with envoys of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. These contacts started prior to the Gulf crisis and continued until Takriti returned to Iraq at the end of August, immediately after meeting Shamir's envoys.

Takriti flew to Iraq to brief Saddam about the talks and did not return to Switzerland, apparently due to the Kuwait crisis and not because of the contacts with Israel. Arab sources in London told 'AL HAMISHMAR that Takriti's contacts had been preceded by talks held in Cairo which had infuriated Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who suggested as much in an interview on French television.

Last June Mubarak managed to obtain Saddam's agreement for talks with Israel on a nuclear and chemical disarmament of the Middle East. With Israel's knowledge, Mubarak agreed with Saddam to establish an Egyptian-Israeli committee to initially discuss chemical disarmament and submit operational proposals to the countries of the region, and at a later state to discuss nuclear disarmament.

According to a report based on reliable high-level sources published by 'AL HAMISHMAR on 25 July 1990, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, who was in Egypt to attend the International Socialist conference and knew about the contacts with Iraq, discussed the matter with President Mubarak. Sources close to Peres at that time confirmed that Mubarak had raised such a proposal, saying he believed he would be able to attain Iraq's consent. As far as is known, Shamir favored the proposal, while Foreign Minister David Levi objected to it.

Sources familiar with Israel's nuclear affairs believe that the Likud government will join the efforts to attain a nuclear disarmament of the region, among other reasons, in order to divert attention from the expected confrontation with the United States and the European countries on the question of the territories to an issue related to the region's security.

Paper Says Bush 'Should Be Congratulated' on Move

TA0212135590 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Dec 90 p 7

[Editorial: "No Cause To Deplore Bush's Initiative"]

[Text] As a country of the Middle East, we have no cause to deplore U.S. President Bush's diplomatic initiative. Israel may be forced to become involved in a war against its wish, and the war may put Israel before formidable dangers. Launching a war is easy, but no one can predict how it will end. In this sense, we have had a dismal experience with the Lebanon war, when Sharon promised a 24-hour—or 48 at most—war, which lasted three years; its tragic aftermath is present with us to this very day.

This does not mean that anyone should surrender to unbridled aggression or that a dictator should be allowed to erase a sovereign state from the globe's map, no matter what one's attitude toward that state is. However, President Bush has launched diplomatic efforts, while holding all the cards in his hand. He has received global support in the Security Council resolution stating that if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by mid-January, every means—including military—may be employed against it. Since this resolution was supported by all the superpowers, the use of sanctions will not be interpreted as a war of the North against the South, but rather as the international community's legitimate step against aggression.

Having despaired of the hope that the international anti-Iraq coalition would crumble—for it has survived despite the diverse inclinations of its members—the Iraqi ruler should draw the appropriate conclusions and withdraw from the land he has conquered. He should face the truth, because if he does not, he will be playing with his country's existence. His neighbors—Iran, Turkey, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and even the Kurds—will be happy to get chunks of Iraqi territory.

Contrary to the position expressed by Kissinger, who is an American hawk and who has implicated his country in a war in Cambodia, the diplomatic steps must be given a chance. There is no doubt that it is preferable to eradicate the outcome of aggression through diplomatic venues than through war, even if the odds of winning that war are good.

There is no doubt that if contacts are held with Iraq, it will be necessary to guarantee not just a withdrawal from Kuwait, but also the elimination of the Iraqi threat to the future security of the region and of the world; this means that it will be vital to ensure the elimination of nonconventional means of warfare and a regional disarmament of weapons of destruction.

Since the chances to attain the goals through diplomatic venues are very good, President Bush should be congratulated on his initiative. He will be able to conduct the negotiations from a sane angle and from a position of power, while the Iraqi ruler, who is under siege, will be forced to realize his situation. If he does not, other means exist. But, both the nation in the United States and the people of Israel would like to be sure that all the options have been exhausted before a bloody war is launched. Bush's initiative is designed to convince the world of that.

'Technological Surprise' for Iraqis on Battlefield

TA3011133190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel is alert and prepared for the Iraqi danger and that it knows how to defend itself should the need arise. Israel, Minister Arens told visiting U.S. congressmen, has developed weapons systems unfamiliar to the enemy, which will constitute a technological surprise on the battlefield.

Police Uncover Galilee 'Terrorist' Squad

TA1112095190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The police have uncovered a terrorist squad which was active in the lower Galilee and have detained three suspects: youths from the village of Tur'an. They are suspected of throwing a Molotov cocktail at an Egged bus at the Tur'an junction about a year ago, stoning buses, hoisting PLO flags, erecting roadblocks, and painting hostile slogans, among other things. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that during the investigation, the police also seized instructions for preparing Molotov cocktails. The suspects reconstructed their acts, and indictments will be submitted against them within a few days.

A curfew was imposed on Nabulus this morning, apparently in order to prevent riots on the anniversary of the establishment of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. A curfew was also imposed on the center of Ramallah, after a parade marking the establishment of the PFLP got under way there.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew imposed on Bethlehem and Bayt Jalah on Sunday is still in force. The curfew on the eastern neighborhood of Janin, as well as several other towns and refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria, is also in effect. In the Gaza Strip, a curfew was imposed on the Jabalyah, al-Nusayrat, and al-Shati' refugee camps; the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza; the village of al-Mashahirah; and on Bayt Lahiyah, in the wake of riots which took place there yesterday.

Tehiya Denies Basing Platform on Arab Transfer

TA0912121790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Leaders of the Tehiya party today denied press reports that they are considering adopting a platform for transfer of the Arab population of the territories. According to the reports, the Tehiya convention last Thursday considered such a proposal. More on the story from reporter Le'a Zinder:

Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen says it is true that party member Avi Farhan presented a private proposal to the party convention recommending transfer. However, she stresses that the proposal generated no support and was dropped. Ge'ula Kohen says Tehiya does believe that the Palestinian refugees should eventually be settled across the River Jordan.

[Begin Kohen recording] It's not a transfer, but when there will be peace talks between us and the Arab countries we will suggest that the Arab refugees who are in the camps, which are not in their places and should be settled here or there, will be settled there, not here in Israel. [end recording]

Ge'ula Kohen adds that the Tehiya continues to recommend the deportation of hostile Palestinian elements.

[Begin Kohen recording] ....but only by law, not deportation with force, not transfer out of their will, because it is nonsense to believe that it is a possibility. That is what we suggest and Mr. Avi Farhan, who tried to push the movement towards his direction, will be called to order. [end recording]

The only resolution passed at the convention, says Kohen, was one setting up a committee which will seek ways to speed up the application of Israeli sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Poll Shows Support Shifting From Larger Parties

TA0712124190 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Rafi and Hanokh Smith]

[Text] The following question was asked as part of a nationwide public opinion poll conducted during the second half of November and the beginning of December and encompassing 1,200 women and men, who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population (including moshavim and kibbutzim and inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip): "Which party would you vote for if elections to the Knesset were held today?" The results are quoted in percentage points.

	Elections	Smith poll	Smith poll
	Nov 1988	Jun 1990	Nov 1990
Likud	34.0	33.0	29.0
Tehiya	3.5	3.5	5.0
Tzomet	+2.0	5.0	5.0
Moledet	+2.0	2.5	5.5
Labor Party	31.5	29.5	21.0
CRM	4.5	6.0	7.0
MAPAM	+2.0	2.0	+2.0
Shinuy	-2.0	3.0	3.5
NRP	4.0	4.0	4.0
SHAS	+5.0	4.0	3.0
Aguda + Degel Hatora	6.5	5.0	-5.0
Others	2.0	1.0	2.0
Undecided	-	1.5	8.0

[Key to abbreviations in table: CRM—Citizens Rights Movement; MAPAM—United Workers Party; NRP—National Religious Party; SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim]

Land Prices Reduced; New Centers Approved

TA0312120890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpts] The price of Israel Lands Authority [ILA] tracts were reduced drastically yesterday, which the Housing Ministry hopes will help put an end to the slump in housing starts. But building contractors were skeptical.

They said the reductions alone would not get them back to work and they were still waiting for a comprehensive government housing policy that did not change from week to week. [passage omitted]

Under the new price scheme first announced last month, the Housing Ministry-controlled ILA will offer tracts in development towns and border communities without payment and give sustantial reductions in other regions, including Jerusalem and the coastal plain.

These plots of land will be available for ministry-sponsored housing projects, the ILA's "Build Your Own Home" scheme, and building company projects, ILA spokesman 'Amiqam Shapira said.

Additional localities where reductions will be available are to be announced soon, Shapira said. Overall, land needed to build about 100,000 apartments will be made available under the new price scheme, he said.

Land will be given gratis to contractors in Zefat, Karmi'el, Ma'alot, Nahariyya, Upper Nazareth, Dimona, Yeroham, Ofaqim, Sederot and Netivot.

In other areas, including Netanya, Bat Yam, Ramat Gan, Holon, and certain parts of Haifa and Jerusalem, prices will be cut by about 50 percent. In Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood, for example, the price of a square meter has been reduced from NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 120 to NIS 80.

The Housing Ministry—in conjuction with ILA's original announcement of slashing land prices—took measures last month to ensure that the reduced prices are passed on to the consumer. The ministry also set a price ceiling of 10 percent over the state purchase guarantee for apartments built on the discounted land.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 3 December carries a front-page report by Gid'on Alon and ITIM on the aliyah cabinet's session last night, in which the "seven-star" plan for the "development of suburban communal centers in the Sharon area, near the 1967 lines, yet inside the Green Line, was approved. It involves thousands of housing units and communal infrastructures for both new immigrants and veteran Israelis.

["The plan is intended to create a contiguous chain of populated sites on the hilly area along a new, planned Highway No. 6, which will be called the Cross-Israel Highway. The plan is to offer housing to 100,000 residents." Each settlement is to be allotted anywhere between 800 and 6,000 dunams.

[The "seven-star" project begins at Yad Hanna in the north and continues all the way south to Kfar Rut. Involved are "12 settlement centers, each with 28,000 housing units, in Yad Hanna, Ge'ullim, Qatzir, Giv'at Habrekha, Zur Natan, Rehov, Mazor, Shoham, and Kfar Rut. A road infrastructure to connect them with the Tel Aviv metropolitan area was also decided upon.

["Also in the session, Minister Ari'el Sharon reported on the plan to find housing solutions for 390,000 new immigrants by the end of 1991. He said his ministry will set up 33,000 mini-trailers plus 30,000 light structures, and that 30,000 housing starts have been decided upon within the 1989/1990 program. He noted with satisfaction that the Central Bureau of Statistics noted an increase in building starts 91 percent higher than in the same period last year."]

Sources Say Private Arab Land Not To Be Seized

TA0912121390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Government sources say privately owned Arab land will not be expropriated for the Housing Ministry's plans to build tens of thousands of homes in the Galilee, Wadi 'Ara, and the Negev. This follows a protest from HADASH Communist Party that the homes in part will go up on Arab land and that employment possibilities for Arabs will be affected. A Voice of Israel reporter quotes the government sources as saying that past policy has proven that development plans benefit Arabs as well and open up new work possibilities.

Intifadah Extremists Said Controlling Violence

TA0712112190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 90 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Extremists Calling the Shots"]

[Text] The use of firearms by Palestinians in the territories was initiated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad against the best judgment of most Palestinian leaders in the territories and the PLO's mainstream abroad. This radicalization shows that the PLO leadership has begun to lose control over the Arab masses and points to the danger that fundamentalist Islamic elements may in the future set the trend of the uprising's violent activities.

In the last few weeks, Palestinians have been engaged in acerbic arguments whether the time has not yet come to revert to the use of firearms. They abstained from doing so in the three years of the intifadah in order to accord it a civilian and passive image, not because they lacked for arms. After all, there is no need for large quantities of weapons to exacerbate the uprising. In the intifadah's second year, seven percent of all incidents involved the use of firearms, mostly against other Palestinians. Most PLO leaders abroad as well as the leadership in the territories objected to the use of firearms, although many of them were prepared to admit that by using conventional methods the intifadah would soon reach a dead end. The argument used by the detractors was that the only ones who would lose by resorting to the use of firearms would be the Palestinians since Israel would be fully justified to use its military might and to deport many of them.

It is believed that Hamas and Islamic Jihad did this argument in through their decision to initiate the use of firearms, thus forcing other organizations to effect a sharp turn in the intifadah. Military sources regard the fact that extremist members of the Islamic organizations might set the trend of the violence as a new phase in the intifadah. Deliberations on Israel's possible reaction began yesterday, knowing full well that Hamas and Islamic Jihad are interested in a sharp reaction and collective punitive measures so as to force a more radical uprising on the entire population. On the other hand, a lame Israeli reaction might lead these organizations to believe that the use of firearms does not entail any risks.

Security elements are working on a series of harsh sanctions, with an emphasis on the punishment being as localized as possible, against people who were directly involved in violent actions. Efforts will be made to avoid collective punishments, but house demolitions would seem not to be included in this definition. The deportation of field activists is being mentioned to further deter Palestinians from using firearms and knives.

Betzelem Report Sums Up Three Years of Intifadah

TA0612111990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 90 p A2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] The report issued by the Betzelem organization to sum up three years of the intifadah states that since its outbreak on 9 December 1987 and until the end of November 1990, 712 Palestinians were killed in the territories by the security forces as a result of shooting or from injuries unrelated to shooting. In the first year, 285 people were killed; 303 were killed in the second year; and 124 were killed during the third year (until the end of November 1990). Of the total number of intifadah fatalities, 685 died as a result of gunshot wounds or of injuries caused by plastic or rubber bullets.

The report states that during three years of the intifadah (until 3 December 1990), 28 Israelis were killed by Palestinians, of which six were security personnel and 25 were civilians [numbers as published]. During the first year of the uprising, three Israelis were killed; 22 were killed in the second year; and five were killed during the third [numbers as published]. Of the Israeli fatalities in the territories, two were shot, 11 were stabbed, 16 were killed in the no. 405 bus attack, one was killed by an explosive charge, and one was murdered and his body later mutilated.

According to AP data, 311 Palestinians have been murdered since the beginning of the intifadah for suspected collaboration with the authorities. During the first year of the intifadah, 21 were killed, while the number went up to 134 in the second year and reached 156 in the third year. In the three years of the intifadah, 35 Arab residents were killed in the territories by Israeli civilians. During the first year of the intifadah 15 Palestinians were killed by Israelis, in the second 11, while nine were killed in the third year.

Since the beginning of the intifadah, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has destroyed 208 West Bank houses belonging to suspected security offenders. The houses of 169 suspects were demolished in the Gaza Strip during the same period. A total of 160 houses in the West Bank and 73 in the Gaza Strip were sealed during the same years.

According to statistics issued by the IDF spokesman, 9,972 residents of the territories are currently being held in military detention facilities. Of these, 4,401 have already stood trial, 1,332 still await trial, 3,477 are being held until legal proceedings have ended, and 762 are administrative detainees. Approximately 4,000 others are imprisoned in the Prison Service installations, and 2,500 of them have stood trial.

The largest detention center in the territories is the installation on the beach in Gaza in which 1,025 Palestinians are held, 660 of which still await trial. The second largest is al-Fari'ah prison east of Nabulus, in which 595 Palestinians are held, with 321 before trial. In al-Zahiriyah prison, 493 residents are being held, of which 324 have yet to stand trial. Two large detention centers are situated inside Israel. In the larger one, Qezi'ot prison, 5,915 Palestinians are being held, of which 3,818 have been convicted, 1,381 are being held until the end of legal proceedings, and 716 are administrative detainees. In Megiddo Prison, 1,523 detainees are being held, of which 1,173 are being held until the end of legal proceedings.

Since the beginnings of the intifadah, 58 residents have been deported from the territories; 32 were deported during the first year and 26 in the second. The reasons given to justify the deportations were involvement in incitement, political subversion, activity in outlawed organizations, and so forth. Since the beginning of August 1988, the deportation of residents of the territories has been discontinued due to the argument surrounding the effectiveness of the deportations within their present framework.

Pessimism High in Territories; Gun Purchases Rise

TA0512204390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] There has been no rise in the number of incidents in which firearms were used in the territories. If any has been noted, it was very slight. There are, however, signs indicating that the aggressors are becoming more daring.

Knowledgeable sources estimate that at this point, there is no room for talk about the intifadah leaping to a higher stage. First, it is essential to understand the mood prevailing in the territories. Here are two examples: Last night, hundreds of Palestinians remained on their terraces gazing out at the sky and expecting to see the materialization of rumors that Saddam Husayn's face will reveal itself in the moon. This is a testimony about the atmosphere. Another example: The prices of weapons—handguns and old shotguns—in the territories' black market have recently risen almost fourfold, compared to the beginning of the year. This, too, reflects the trends among the people.

Many residents feel that anarchy prevails. Economic hardships are increasing and are evident, among other phenomena, in the long lines in front of the Nabulus bank. There is a rise in unemployment and a drop in funds received from abroad. There is fear of losing jobs and of receiving green ID cards which prevent their owners from working in Israel, and there is great apprehension about being harassed in Israel—both by the security forces during checkpoint control and by the Jewish public in the street and in places of employment.

This is the background against which various outside elements have been encouraging the population to worsen the situation. This aspect is led by all six factions of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, as well as the terror apparatuses of other organizations.

The initiative to use firearms is, in most cases, the result of individual decision, rather than organizational orders. It will be remembered that to date, the PLO has not made a decision to urge the residents of the territories to employ firearms. Some PLO officials have been taking action along this line, but the majority still fear a situation in which the territories leadership will speedily lose its authority with the population and find itself being swept into directions indicated by radicals. This is true with regard to the assassinations of collaborators and the use of knives and guns.

This week's leaflet of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which spoke of resorting to every kind of struggle, was evidence of both a surrender to the youths' violent mood and an attempt to avoid mentioning guns explicitly.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the second major movement, is not calling at present for mass use of firearms, but for what it terms quality attacks by squads specially trained for such tasks.

All the above comes, as said, against the background of pessimism and anxiety.

Commentary Analyzes Intifadah's Effect on Security

TA0412184890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 90 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "That Is Also Part of Security"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Almost imperceptibly, the Palestinian uprising has changed the importance of the territorial factor in the security-defense equation. The traditional concept held that the territories serve as a security belt for Israel and constitute a net increment to its security. The intifadah taught us that the continued occupation of these territories will exact a heavy price in security. It suddenly became clear that something was seriously offsetting the additional strategic depth offered by the territories.

As long as security troubles were concentrated along the border, things still seemed normal. But the longer the Palestinian uprising went on and began seeping inside the Green Line, it became clear to many Israelis that the strategic depth of the territories does not offer a solution to other fundamental security issues.

Because we decided that the Palestinian people will continue to live among us under our control, the Palestinians have succeeded in carrying out what in military parlance is known as a vertical outflanking of the strategic depth accorded us by the territories. It turned out that security is not just what occurs along the borders, but also what happens at home.

These changes prove that the military formula extolling the importance of territory is anachronistic and does not take all necessary elements into account. It is not enough to analyze the terrain and find out whether it is hilly, desert, or wooded, or which rivers or ground obstacles are situated there.

It is no less important to include in the formula the populace living in the area, its national aspirations, and its capacity to constitute a continuous security threat.

This mistake became evident in the course of the intifadah, and it is becoming ever more clear in the wake of recent attacks. Right now we are still trying to escape reality, a stage in which we hope that the problem will be resolved by issuing identity cards to the "good Palestinians" allowing them to work in Israel, while we forget that most of the knife attackers captured until today had no record of security or criminal offenses. The proposal to intermittently close off the Green Line is also but a partial solution, that will create other security problems, or will increase the unrest inside the territories.

Sooner or later a decision will have to be made as to what is more dangerous: To arrive at an agreement with the Palestinians within the context of comprehensive security arrangements with them and with Jordan, or to maintain the current status quo.

Many people will continue to say that the depth given us by the territories in the Gaza Strip and in Judaea and Samaria is crucial and that the danger posed by the Arab armies constitutes a strategic threat. Speaking from a strictly military viewpoint, the intifadah admittedly does not pose an immediate existential danger to Israel. It is also clear, however, that it is not merely a bothersome affair that is limited to the tactical sphere. In the long run, the Palestinian uprising has dangerous ramifications, and not just on the morale of Israeli citizens. Its accumulated effects will have a strategic effect on Israel's security.

Israeli Muslims Urged Not To Make Pilgrimage

TA3011190490 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Nazareth—A joint statement was issued yesterday by the National Committee of Heads of Arab Local Councils and the Pilgrims' Affairs Society of Israeli Muslims, announcing a joint decision to call on Israeli Muslims not to make the pilgrimage this year in order to show solidarity with the position of the Jordanian awqaf minister and to protest foreign presence on the land of "Najd and al-Hijaz."

The statement also said that since for the last 13 years the pilgrimage has been made through Jordan and with its help, Israeli pilgrims will reject any alternative to Jordan, so that no party will be able to use Israeli Muslims to make political gains. [passage omitted]

30 Kakh Members Detained After Rally, Riots

TA0612202590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] A Kakh rally marking the 30th day following Rabbi Me'ir Kahana's death has just ended at the entrance to Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the rally was accompanied by rioting and that torches were flung at policemen. Thirty rioters, including Mikha'el Ben-Horin, one of the prominent Kakh activists, were detained. A policeman who tripped during the activity was beaten up by two rioters.

Until a short while ago, dozens of rally participants were gathered near the commemorative pillar at the city's entrance while numerous policemen tried to disperse them.

The Jerusalem Police have deployed throughout the city to prevent attacks on Arabs.

Second Consignment of Milk Sent to USSR

TA0612152990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] A plane loaded with 15 metric tons of powdered milk took off from Ben-Gurion Airport for the USSR a short while ago. This is the second consignment the Jewish Agency has sent to the Soviet Union in the past 48 hours. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the load will be distributed in three major Soviet towns. The plane will return tomorrow morning, bringing 210 new immigrants.

On Monday another plane, carrying agricultural produce, will be sent at the initiative of the Agriculture Ministry. The produce on that aircraft will be an agricultural produce exhibition of sorts, and two Agriculture Ministry teams will accompany it.

Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports that the teams will survey the two farms that the Soviet Agricultural Academy has asked Israel to help rehabilitate.

1990 Trade Deficit Now $3.3 Billion

TA1112110190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] Israel's trade deficit continued to climb during October and November, as imports increased and exports stagnated.

According to figures reported yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics, imports were three percent higher in October and November, in money terms, than they were in August and September, which were in turn 8.5 percent higher than in June and July. Industrial exports remained the same during the past two months, while agricultural exports showed a small drop.

The total deficit for the first 11 months of this year is $3.3 billion, as compared to $2.1 billion during the same period last year.

In response to the trade figures announced yesterday, the Manufacturers Association warned that the country is heading for a crisis in terms of its foreign-currency reserves. "The No. 1 priority of Israel's economy should be to step up exports considerably," commented Hezi Gutman, an association official.

Impact of Events in Lebanon Analyzed

TA3011144990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Nov 90 pp 10, 12

[Analysis by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Lebanon's Target"]

[Excerpts] There is a link between the "warming up" in the security zone in southern Lebanon and the beginning of the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreements, which were designed to put an end to the problems of Lebanon and to restore the central government's sovereignty over the entire country. Furthermore, those matters are linked to the broader scope of developments in the Middle East, with all the prospects and dangers inherent in them.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is leaving for Washington, where he will meet President Bush with more than mixed feelings. It is true that the pro-Israeli lobby has made an effort to obtain the meeting for him, but it may have done so because it did not fully understand his state of mind. In view of the developments in the Middle East, Shamir would have apparently preferred to forgo the honor this time, and to travel to New York for the sole purpose of receiving the Jabotinsky Order award.

As long as Shamir sees continued Israeli rule in the territories as a supreme Israeli interest "for the benefit of the aliyah and the next generations," the developments in the Middle East do not bode well for him. The summons to the White House implies an American demand that Israel integrate into those processes that, in Shamir's view, are extremely dangerous for Israel's future.

Shamir favors the status quo both because of his passive nature and because any change is liable to be for the worse from the viewpoint of Israel's hold on the territories. The Middle East is currently undergoing changes. Two patterns of political processes that will also be applicable to the Palestinian problem are currently taking shape. One is the growing UN responsibility for the Middle East through the Security Council, which no longer resorts to vetoes—either pro-Israeli by the United States, or pro-Arab by the USSR—but rather operates in an atmosphere of harmony between the superpowers. The other is a model of an international conference—though it is not called such—that, in Shamir's outlook, would be a framework with which to coerce Israel. This second pattern is evident in Lebanon, and in the prominence of the anti-Iraqi axis—Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia—as the determining factor in the entire Middle East. Before the Gulf crisis, the United States did not require UN assistance. Unassisted, it failed to launch political processes with the Baker plan, but it was more lucky in Lebanon, where we are now witnessing the implementation of the Pax Americana through the United States' Arab allies. If Saddam Husayn is defeated in Kuwait, the two processes are expected to fuse, resulting in an international framework operating through the United Nations, with the Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian axis serving as the dominant representation of Arab positions. This outcome will also guarantee that Washington gets international assistance for the solution of the Palestinian problem—as it has during the Kuwait crisis—and will also guarantee its continued supremacy via the triple axis.

To assess the strength of the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi axis, it is necessary to carefully examine the Lebanon developments resulting from the year-old al-Ta'if agreements, which formed the triple axis and also marked the beginning of the rift between Egypt and Iraq.

This week we witnessed a significant event in tormented Lebanon's history: The militias withdrew from greater Beirut, leaving the city under the full control of the Lebanese Army. Beirut thus became once again Lebanon's true capital, the first step toward the resumption of the central government's control over the entire country. That sounds impressive, but there are still very strong forces inside and outside Lebanon interested in sabotaging the al-Ta'if agreements, or at least in undermining the hegemony of the triangular axis and the power behind it: the United States. This stems from internal Lebanese considerations, but also from a future consideration: the solution of the Palestinian problem. One very central aspect of this problem can be found inside Lebanon, after all: the Palestinian refugee camps, the link between the Palestinian and the Lebanese problems.

First of all it is necessary to pay attention to who rushed to accept the al-Ta'if accords and immediately pulled their forces out of metropolitan Beirut. They were the organizations least expected to do so: Amal and Hizballah, the two rival Shiite organizations, peace between them having been brought about thanks to the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreements.

There was less surprise about Amal, because the organization is considered pro-Syrian and it would not have created obstacles to a process in which Syria was interested. Amal leader Nabih Birri even demanded that the execution of the greater Lebanon plan be expedited. The big surprise was Hizballah: The agreements in Lebanon were the prime reasons for the cooling of relations between Syria and Iran in the period that preceded the Kuwait crisis, as they affected one of the fundamental principles of the Khomeyni revolution; that is, the exportation of that revolution.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati dashed to Damascus to give vent to his dismay over the agreements. One of the last remaining elements of the Khomeyni revolution following the Iran-Iraq war is the armed Shiite presence in Lebanon. Hizballah's unspoken readiness to disarm, in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreements, goes beyond Lebanon's borders and manifests the growing strength of the Rafsanjani way of thinking in Tehran, which hopes to free the country of the onus of Khomeyniist ideology in its broad scope. In the long run, this means that Iran is in fact going to join the al-Ta'if agreement and to enter into the picture as the fourth side of the triangular axis. The two Islamic superpowers in the Middle East, Iran and Saudi Arabia, are thus going to make peace. This may find expression in the next pilgrimage to Mecca, in three months.

Although Hizballah declared that the withdrawal from metropolitan Beirut does not mean that it intends to surrender its arms to the Lebanese Army, and that from now on it will "direct its weapons against Israel," clearly, just as it showed no objection to the implementation of the first stage of the al-Ta'if accords, so it will not create hurdles for the next phases. [passage omitted]

Israel, as is well known, is not prepared to cede the security zone or give the central Lebanese Government a chance to exercise its authority under Syrian protection. Official Israeli spokesmen said as much openly after the death this week of the five IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in southern Lebanon. So far, Israel had considered Amal a positive element, because of its active hostility toward Hizballah. Now, however, Jerusalem sees its agreement with Hizballah as a negative development. No doubt what prompted Israel to step up activity in southern Lebanon were purely military needs, because the militias redirected their attention to the struggle against Israel. Yet the decision also has a political angle: to offset Amal and Hizballah's move to the "legitimate government's side" and, just as importantly, to protect Israel's interests in the security strip.

As will be recalled, when former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin drew the borders of the security zone, current Defense Minister Moshe Arens objected to them; Arens demanded that the northern border be pushed all the way up to the al-Zahrani River, or that it at least include Jazzin. It was consequently no coincidence that when Israel realized that the al-Ta'if agreements are really beginning to be implemented, word got out that Minister Arens wanted to push the border of the strip farther north. The security strip was meant to protect the northern settlements. The impression was that opposition to the implementation of the al-Ta'if accords would lead Israel to begin to concentrate on defending the security zone.

Israel is not alone in opposing the implementation of the agreements. It has partners, mainly among the Christians and the Druze. The brutal massacre in the home of Dani Sham'un, the Christian leader who was considered an Israel sympathizer and who was himself slaughtered along with his wife and two infant children, raised the Christians' fears of these agreements, which grant Syria hegemony.

The Christians, who originally ruled Lebanon but whose clout has since diminished, are not united; a myriad of factions are at loggerheads with each other, even within the "Lebanese Forces," which are the Maronites' mainstay. Their commander, Samir Ja'ja', knew exactly when to desert 'Awn's sinking ship and was made privy to the Syrian onslaught on B'abda Palace. Furthermore, he even supported in principle the implementation of the al-Ta'if accords, which was the outcome of that offensive. Yet he was deeply apprehensive about the need to evacuate his headquarters from the al-Ashrafiyah neighborhood and about the prospect of placing the Christians at the mercy of the Syrians and their allies. Following negotiations, the Lebanese Forces had to leave Beirut without sufficient guarantees—which attests to the strength of the al- Ta'if accords. True, there were reports last week that not all the militias—not even the Christians—actually lived up to their word; still the impressive sight of the departing militias said it all. The al-Ta'if accords and the political powers behind them are currently the decisive force in the Middle East.

Out of the early contacts before the Greater Beirut plan was implemented came the promise to set up a government of national conciliation, expand the basis of the incumbent government, and add new elements to it, including representatives of the Christian forces who had, until just about that time, fought along with 'Awn against Syria. However, it does not look like this government is going to be established anytime soon, and this has a great impact on the relative weight of the Christians in the new Lebanon.

The Druze, led by Walid Junblatt, are also not enthusiastic about the accords, for internal Lebanese reasons. Yet Junblatt cannot afford to oppose them outright, so he expresses his opposition indirectly: He demands a seat on the new Cabinet and refuses to surrender his arms to the government's army; he will only hand them over to the Syrian Army. Since he knows that the accords stipulate that only the Lebanese Army is legitimate, we are bound to hear about problems from the Druze side in the future as well. Samir Ja'ja', too, expresses his reservations in demanding that the Christians receive important portfolios in the future government of national conciliation. Thus, government circles have reported that there is no intention of effecting changes anytime soon, so as not to further entangle the already delicate situation that has resulted from conflicting domestic interests.

However, the postponement of the establishment of a government of national conciliation despite the promises given to Ja'ja' and the withdrawal of the "Lebanese Forces" despite the fact that the promises were not fulfilled reflect the fact that, as of now, the Christians are under full Syrian sponsorship, and Syria will keep its promises only when they suit its needs.

Israel will find, therefore, that the Druze and the Christians are potential allies for the task of thwarting the agreements. The only question is whether it is in Israel's interest and whether the joint forces of Israel and those two groups will suffice to oppose arrangements favored by the United States.

That, however, is not the most crucial aspect. There is another important group in Lebanon, which has been apprehensively viewing the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreements: the Palestinians. They are not seen as a Lebanese group and are therefore not represented in the government. But they, like every other Lebanese militia, are also required to disarm.

Bassam Abu-Sharif has already announced that the PLO will not demilitarize. Since the refugee camps in Lebanon are supposed to remain defenseless, sharp confrontations are expected between the government and the PLO. The disarming of the PLO has other significant aspects pertinent to the organization's general nature, but that issue merits a separate article.

Israeli military pressure on the Palestinians, on the one hand, and Syrian-Lebanese political pressure, on the other, are liable to begin a destabilization of the Palestinian existence in Lebanon, as a result of which we may witness masses of desperate Palestinians staging "return marches" to Israeli borders. The situation in Lebanon is changing, and the Israeli Army's routine operations against the Palestinians must change accordingly. We must pay more attention to the political sensibilities of the new situation.

Shamir's suspicion of the developments in Lebanon is as substantial as his fears of the ramifications of the U.S.-Arab coalition against Saddam Husayn. The very fact that changes are occurring worries him, and he finds himself and the United States on opposite sides of the barrier. With that approach, he is liable to damage one of that country's greatest efforts, as he has harmed its efforts to arrange a U.S.-sponsored meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

The United States wants to carry out fundamental changes, while Shamir—so it appears—is striving to preserve a neither-peace-nor-war situation in the Gulf, in the territories, and in Lebanon. That is Shamir's interest. It is not necessarily compatible with Israel's true interest.

Drug Traffic From Lebanon 'Significantly Curbed'

*TA0812075690 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
7 Dec 90 p 12*

[Report by correspondent in the north Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] Accompanying Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo on a tour of the Galilee and south Lebanon yesterday, Deputy Commissioner Yehuda Lev, head of the Israel Police's Narcotics Department, said that 3,500 kg of heroin and 50 metric tons of hashish are currently being consumed in Israel in a year.

Deputy Commissioner Lev nevertheless noted that for the first time in many years drug trafficking from Lebanon to Israel has been significantly curbed.

It was noted during the tour that the Israel Police encourages Lebanese to enlist in the security zone's local gendarmerie, which helps impose law and order and prevent smuggling into Israel.

U.S. Official To Cancel Search of Ships

JN1112120290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Dec 90 pp 1, 15

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Henry Rowen declared yesterday that during his visit to Jordan he formed a comprehensive view which qualifies him to cancel the searching of ships bound for al-'Aqabah port.

He said that the presence of UN officials on the border with Iraq are sufficient to monitor any leakage of goods across the Jordanian border with Iraq.

Mr. Rowen, whose visit to Jordan included a meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, spoke yesterday while meeting with a number of Jordanian figures, businessmen, merchants, and some officials from Jordanian shipping companies.

Those present asked the U.S. assistant defense secretary and military advisor for ship-monitoring operations about the unofficial boycott on Jordan's al-'Aqabah port and informed him of the huge damage this is inflicting on the Jordanian economy. Mr. Muhammad 'Asfur, head of the Amman Chamber of Commerce; Mamduh Abu-Hassan, head of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association; and Mr. 'Adub Qa'war briefed the U.S. assistant defense secretary on the scope of this issue and its economic, financial, and social damages. They explained to him Jordan's great efforts throughout the past years to build the Jordanian infra-structure.

Mr. Henry Rowen explained during the meeting, which was held at the residence of Mr. Patrick Theros, first secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, that the aim of searching the ships was not to hamper Jordan's import and export trade which they referred to, but to guarantee that there is no leakage of goods into Iraq through Jordan. He said that he has finalized his views and that the issues proposed by the businessmen and merchants authorize him to cancel the searching of ships heading for al-'Aqabah.

Hasan Discusses Crisis With Soviet Official

JN1112153190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at his Royal Hashemite Court office this morning Boris Pyadyshev, the ambassador and collegium member of the General Secretariat of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. His highness reviewed with the guest the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the current initiatives to find a peaceful solution within the Arab framework and on the basis of international legitimacy. His highness also explained his view of the options for finding a solution to these complex problems, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

For his part, the guest reviewed the bases of the U.S. position on current Middle East problems as well as changes in Soviet foreign policy. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Algerian President Arrives in Amman 11 Dec

JN1112172090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Amman this evening on the first stop of a regional tour. The Algerian president was received upon arrival by his majesty the king and other high-ranking officials. The Algerian president is accompanied by his Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali.

Talks between his majesty and the Algerian president are expected to start immediately and were to concentrate on the Gulf crisis.

Information Minister's Statement

JN1112191390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] In a statement to reporters following the arrival of [Algerian] President Chadli Bendjedid, Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din said that his excellency's visit is very important, especially since it comes after months of escalation of the Gulf crisis, which was heading toward military confrontation. He said that matters are now heading in the opposite direction. The minister expressed hope that his excellency's talks and discussions with his brother leaders in Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia would be fruitful and attain their aims.

Replying to a question on the Algerian efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, the information minister said that Algeria has kept channels open with all concerned parties. He expressed hope that these efforts and discussions would establish peace in the region, and stressed that there are good chances to achieve this.

When asked about the possible result of these discussions, he said that it is difficult at this stage to talk precisely about that, however what Jordan hopes to achieve is what His Majesty King Husayn clearly expressed in his recent speech, and that the efforts of Jordanian diplomacy will focus on the king's proposals as conveyed in his speech to reach a peaceful solution of the crisis.

Asked whether President Bendjedid's visit to Jordan is a prelude to an Arab summit in the near future, Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din said that talks at this stage will be held on an Arab bilateral or three-way basis.

King, Algerian President Talk

JN1112201990 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Talks between his majesty the king and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid began at al-Hashimiyah Palace this evening. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the talks.

The talks covered the latest developments of the Gulf crisis, and maintaining joint Jordanian-Algerian efforts to find a political settlement to that crisis. The talks also dealt with launching comprehensive Arab contacts in order to clear the air for an inter-Arab dialogue, which would lead to a political settlement to the Gulf crisis, and implementation of international legitimacy and resolutions on all problems in the region.

The talks were attended by the prime minister, the chief of the royal court, his majesty's political adviser, and the deputy prime and foreign minister. For Algeria, they were attended by the Algerian foreign minister, the Algerian president's adviser, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

France, Belgium To Extend Loans to Kingdom

JN1012213090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] A financial protocol was signed in Paris today between the French Government and the Jordanian Government. Under the protocol, France will extend an easy-term loan of 100 million French francs. The protocol was signed for the Jordanian Government by Jordanian Ambassador in France 'Awwad al-Khalidi and for the French Government by (Blendan).

Finance Minister Basil Jardanah told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that the loan will be repayed over 25 years with a grace period of 7 ½ years and at an interest rate of 2 percent. He said that the easy loan is part of compensation for Jordan's losses that have been caused by the Gulf crisis. He also said that 75 percent of the loan will be used before the end of this year, while the rest will be used next year. He pointed out that the loan is the first French loan aimed at compensating Jordan for losses incurred as a result of the Gulf crisis.

He added that the Belgian Government will also extend a loan of $6 million dollars with easy terms.

Central Bank Receives German, Japanese Loans

JN0812153490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], has stated that the CBJ has recently received, within the framework of amounts designated by several friendly nations to the countries harmed by the Gulf crisis, DM180 million, equivalent to some $120 million, as a grant from the German Government. He added that the CBJ also received 7.2 billion Japanese yen, equivalent to some $55 million, from the Japanese Government. He went on to say that this amount is the first installment of a soft and long-term Japanese loan. He concluded by saying that these amounts will be used to support the Jordanian balance of payments and cover some commodity imports.

Paper Reports Losses Attributable to Gulf Crisis

JN0912215090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the report presented by the UN envoy on the damage caused to Jordan as a result of the Arabian Gulf crisis has estimated the amount of losses this year at $1,520 million. This figure will increase in the coming year to $3,426 million if the crisis continues.

The losses were distributed as follows:

Item	1990	1991
Export losses	229	756
Services losses		
Transportation	103	340
Remittances	122	318
Tourism	274	487
Difference in oil price		
If we did without Iraqi oil	115	257
Iraq's debts	110	145
Transit for the Gulf states	135	115
Remittances of Jordanian labor	[no figures as published]	
Other services	49	129
Other grants	235	415
Rehabilitation of expatriates	48	-

Employees Fired for Political Reasons Reinstated

JN1012165190 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1618 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 10 Dec (PETRA)—A large number of employees, who were fired or whose appointments were suspended for political reasons, have been reinstated in various ministries, departments, and government institutions.

A responsible source at the Civil Service Commission told PETRA that 416 male and female employees have been reinstated in implementation of the government's directives and out of concern to consolidate the rules of justice and equal opportunity. Therefore, the Civil Service Commission has applied the provisions of the civil service law to these employees carefully and fairly. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Source Explains Iqlim Al-Tuffah Hurdle

NC1212092790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpts] As contacts continue on several levels to untie *the knots, especially al-Luwayzah, that impede Army* deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah, a responsible Hizballah source explained this issue. He noted that this town has never been a bone of contention or a fighting position. He pointed to the role being played by those who stand to lose from the agreement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. These disaffected parties, he said, mingle facts and create confusion by inciting certain naive people to obstruct the agreement. He said that certain parties are still trying to exploit our silence over the al-Luwayzah issue and our concern to address it in a positive spirit within the framework of the quadripartite committee, which we consider to be the only one authorized to deal with this issue given its overall view of all aspects and implications of the issue. [passage omitted]

The source said that the most mischievous method pursued by the disaffected parties is their futile attempt to portray the issue of al-Luwayzah as a problem between its inhabitants and the resistance. In order to prevent the public from being deceived by the hostility of these parties, we want to explain that the basic goal of the Islamic resistance is to liberate all the villages occupied by the Zionist enemy. The resistance emerged, struggled, and offered martyrs in order to ensure a safe and dignified return of the inhabitants to their villages.

He said that al-Luwayzah was outside the area of clashes between Hizballah and the Amal Movement and has never been a point of disagreement. In addition, this issue has never been discussed in either the first or the second Damascus Agreements. Moreover, the Islamic resistance has neither a military base nor any show of arms in al-Luwayzah. Therefore, the mujahidin have never been an obstacle to the return of its inhabitants.

He stressed that the inhabitants of al-Luwayzah know agent Lahd's militia and its new positions in Sujud and Bi'r Kallab were responsible for their eviction from their town six years ago. They have not been able to return to their village because the cause of their eviction still exists.

Attempts to infiltrate the town by Zionist and Lahd personnel continue. Had it not been for the Islamic resistance and protection of the town, al-Luwayzah would have been part of the occupied border strip. He pointed out that the inhabitants of al-Luwayzah are the vanguard of the Islamic resistance strugglers and are the most concerned about their town, relatives, and their safe and dignified return. He said that the Islamic resistance wants the people of al-Luwayzah to return to their town and is striving to achieve this.

The source said that if the Army deployment in al-Luwayzah and Mlikh while the agents remain in their positions were to ensure security and stability for the people of al-Luwayzah, the resistance men would not hesitate to agree to this. The Army deployment in al-Luwayzah within direct range of Lahd's gunfire would not secure quiet or stability for the inhabitants, unless certain parties try to incite the Army to prevent resistance operations against the enemy. He said that if the *goal is to liberate the agents' positions, the resistance* would strongly back the Army to liberate these positions that prevent the people of al-Luwayzah and Mlikh from returning to their villages. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Receives Supreme Soviet Official 12 Dec

NC1212105690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] This morning Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss received (Fikra Topoyev), deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Foreign Affairs Committee, accompanied by Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Gennadiy Ilichev. After the meeting, the Soviet official affirmed that implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement will bring peace to Lebanon. He said: As Soviet people, this matter is of great interest to us. We are studying the issue of strengthening the relations between our two countries against the background of resolving all the Middle East problems and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions which were adopted some 12 years ago.

Junblatt Calls for Dialogue With Phalangists

NC1112161290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has warned against the consequences of demolishing old, historic, beautiful Beirut to serve the interests of some suspicious companies as well as some cliques favored by the Lebanese legitimacy.

In a news conference he held in al-Mukhtarah today, Junblatt said that under the premise that some old buildings in old Beirut are unsuitable for residence, the (Auget) Lebanon company has started to knock down old buildings and it wants to turn the commercial secter into a modern city. Junblatt added: It has come to our attention that several properties were bought by this company and its associates, but as of yet nothing has been entered in the real estate register. In other words, old Beirut is for sale and is being purchased by the financial, political Hariri [reference to Lebanese-Saudi businessman Rafiq al-Hariri] company in Paris and its offices in Lebanon, he added. [passage omitted]

Instead Junblatt proposed that the state adopt a project that was prepared in 1978 by a number of our best architects such as Khalil Khuri, Muhammad Ghaziri, 'Asim Salam, and others. He added: If this policy of the legitimate government continues, the Lebanese people will become mere shares in the hands of the companies that seek to purchase Lebanon.

Junblatt reiterated his call to keep the Army out of the hands of some suspicious parties around the president of the republic and in Paris. He added: If Greater Beirut has to be consolidated at the security and political levels, and later on, if the Army must expand southward and northward, then all interfering hands must be removed from it.

Junblatt expressed his belief that a consensus will emerge among all the parties in Lebanon, including the Phalangist Party, to eliminate corruption. [passage omitted]

Junblatt added: I hope President Ilyas al-Hirawi will be careful because this is not the way Lebanon should be reconstructed. We are ready to help him if he wants; but if he does not, we are also ready to disagree with him right from the beginning.

Responding to a call made yesterday for dialogue, he said that we have heard a call for dialogue made at a certain club. We advocate dialogue. We in the party could decide to initiate a dialogue with the Phalangist Party on the basis of combating corruption, securing welfare and social insurance for the elderly, and maintaining free education and free medical care. The democratic process must be genuine. He added: We are also thinking of establishing a dialogue with the Lebanese Forces because I believe that their thousands of martyrs did not die so that monopoly and exploitation might return. However, Junblatt hastened to add: Before the call for dialogue, we need to engage in a quiet and peaceful dialogue session among ourselves in the nationalist ranks.

Sa'adah Welcomes Request

NC1212072390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Minister George Sa'adah has welcomed Minister Walid Junblatt's announcement that he wishes to begin a dialogue the Phalangist Party. Sa'adah also welcomed a similar call for dialogue by Communist Party leader George Hawi.

Dr. Sa'adah said: We welcome every call for dialogue, as this suits our principles and political beliefs as well as the contents of the National Accord Document signed in al-Ta'if. The Phalangists believe that dialogue is the only way to resolve the country's painful problems.

Dr. Sa'adah expresed hope that all sides would cooperate in translating Minister Junblatt's call for dialogue and for reaching understanding with the Phalangist Party into serious effort and concrete measures. Dr. Sa'adah said that it is important to turn political conflict into democratic rivalry. He added: We extend our hand to Minister Junblatt and all Lebanese parties in order to resolve all problems and tackle all issues. This is particularly true of the issue of the displaced people. These people should return in dignity and safety to their home towns in accordance with the agreement that we all endorsed in al-Ta'if.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Resistance Positions

NC1112132490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Two Israeli helicopters raided Islamic resistance positions in Jabal al-Dhahir in Western al-Biqa' at approximately 1100 GMT using heavy machine guns. Islamic resistance sources confirmed the raid and added that it lasted for approximately 10 minutes. The raid coincided with intensive flights by Israelis planes over the area.

Customs Officials Seize Arms Bound for Armenia

NC1112185490 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Beirut, Dec 11 (AFP)—Lebanese customs officials on Sunday seized automatic weapons and ammunition bound for Soviet Armenia, informed sources disclosed here Tuesday. They said 20 automatic weapons and supplies of ammunition were hidden in three cars that had been loaded aboard a cargo vessel in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli and destined for residents of Armenia.

Customs officials refused to provide any further details on the seizure, including the registration of the ship.

Several hundred thousand Armenians live in Lebanon.

Al-Zu'bi on Egyptian Ties, Lebanon, Gulf

*JN1112164690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
10 Dec 90 p 5*

[Interview with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi by Ahmad Nafi' in Damascus—date not given]

[Text] [Nafi'] Mr. Prime Minister, I believe that the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee is convening for the first time in Cairo. What does forming this higher committee mean, and what is the significance of this meeting?

[Al-Zu'bi] The historical social and cultural ties between Syria and Egypt are distinct in that they are deeply rooted, which makes the one Arab people in the two countries always know that they will remain together and side with each other under any circumstances. Throughout the ages, when the Arabs and Muslims were facing crises and dangers, Egypt and Syria were the centers of power and defense, the fence against which all would founder, and the location from which assaults were launched against the enemies of the Arab nation.

Therefore, any joint action between Syria and Egypt, whether on the bilateral or Arab level, in itself certainly benefits all Arabs. Today, the masses of Egypt and Syria welcome and express pleasure in this political, economic, and cultural cooperation, whose pillars have been anchored by President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak. This cooperation is proceeding carefully and determinedly toward the objectives of economic and social integration between the two sisterly countries. Hence, the importance of the first meeting of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee headed by the prime ministers of the two countries. It means that Egypt and Syria have returned to their normal positions, and that hands are extended to enable the two sisterly countries play an important and effective role in serving Arab issues at this important stage.

[Nafi'] What are the most important projects that constitute the hallmark of the new march, and what is your conception on achieving economic integration between Syria and Egypt?

[Al-Zu'bi] As I have mentioned, the meetings between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, and their positive outcome, have established a new concept of the joint Egyptian-Syrian march. During President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Egypt in July 1990, discussions between the Syrian and Egyptian delegations were held. These discussions aimed at translating Syrian-Egyptian cooperation into practical steps in cooperation, integration, and preparation from the meetings of the higher joint committee. The concerned ministers in the two countries were tasked with holding meetings, surveying the various sectors, determining the capabilities, and setting a timetable for cooperation, coordination, and integration in industry, agriculture, electricity, power, housing, transportation, oil, and trade, in addition to education, health, culture, tourism, information, and studying the various systems, laws, and regulations to achieve harmony and unity in a manner that strengthens the cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

It is certain that the first meeting of the joint committee will allow detailed discussion of all projects and proposals made by both sides. These proposals will be formulated into a number of agreements determining the tasks of each side, the responsibility of each sector, and the aims of each approved project.

The preparatory committee held a series of meetings in Damascus during which the ministers and experts formulated agreements. I think economic integration between Syria and Egypt is dictated by the reality of the two countries and their needs and joint interests. Syria and Egypt complement each other in terms of economy, society, population, and pan-Arabism. And we have to know how to begin, taking realistic steps and using available resources. Our next step should also be continued and followed by other steps. We are aspiring to relive the time when our relations were at their best, and to achieve everything our common future promises.

[Nafi'] What is the significance of the Syrian-Egyptian-Saudi meetings?

[Al-Zu'bi] The political and media cooperation among Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia has taken an effective and prominent course since the eruption of the Gulf crisis. The three countries understood that the dangers of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait were so complex and extensive that Damascus, Cairo, and Riyadh had to assume a full Arab responsibility in order to render the Arab position on the Gulf crisis capable of absorbing the regional and international dimensions of the crisis and its interactions, which were accelerating every day. It was not possible for the leaders of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia to leave developments to circumstances and ignore their serious prospects, which will be disastrous for the Iraqi people. Undoubtedly, the political responsibility shouldered by the three countries today reflects a common determination to express an Arab will to handle the Gulf crisis in accordance with the resolutions of the Cairo extraordinary Arab summit and the stance of the world community.

The unceasing meetings among the foreign ministers of the three countries ran parallel with the developments of the crisis. The political coordination among the three capitals, therefore, constitutes the basic Arab factor, regionally and internationally, to resolve the crisis, enhance common Arab action within the framework of the Arab League and in the interest of the Arab nation and its main issues, and to unify common media action to reflect all aspects of political and economic cooperation in the present and the future.

[Nafi'] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President George Bush met on 23 November in Geneva. What has Syria achieved, and what is your comment on the resumption of Syrian-British relations?

[Al-Zu'bi] At the Geneva summit, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed Syria's strategic view on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the contrast Syria draws between international terrorism and the legitimacy of peoples' national struggle, and Syria's position on the Gulf crisis. The outcome of the meeting was useful and clear to both sides in terms of the crisis in the region and the special nature of the current period, and especially that Syria is eager to bolster its relations with all world nations and to consolidate positive interaction between the just Arab issues and the aspirations of the world community.

Regarding the resumption of Syrian-British relations, I can say they were resumed by the two countries in accordance with the statement they issued on this subject. In the statement, Britain stressed its commitment, as a permanent member of the Security Council, to renewing its efforts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as soon as Iraq withdraws from Kuwait. It also expressed its conviction that a UN-sponsored international conference will help to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. Britain also views Israel's occupation of Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon as illegal and unacceptable. The British Government promised to play a positive role in promoting relations between Syria and the EC, which has allayed its misgivings on the matter. Therefore, it is clear that the resumption of diplomatic relations between Damascus and London was based on positive factors of support for Syria's position on the basic Arab issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

[Nafi'] The national accord has resulted in important steps toward solving the Lebanese problem. What is the extent of that accord? Are there obstacles? Is the way open for a final solution?

[Al-Zu'bi] Everyone knows that Syria went into Lebanon at the invitation of the legitimate Lebanese Government and with Arab approval in order to end the civil war and the bloodshed and to protect Lebanon from disruption and Zionist ambitions. Syria has worked to stop the civil war and enable the Lebanese to pursue national accord and embody the will of all factions of the Lebanese people. The obstacles were numerous, and Syria has been helping Lebanon overcome them. Syria did not draw up solutions for the Lebanese but worked to provide security, understanding, and dialogue. Syria faced very large burdens and offered sacrifices. Its presence in Lebanon has always foiled partition conspiracies. The al-Ta'if agreement was an important step, and its approval by all Lebanese parties reinforced the work of the legitimate authority of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the Lebanese Government to achieve their national goals. The current steps to evacuate armed militias from greater Beirut will pave the way toward the other steps stipulated in al-Ta'if agreement on Lebanon, including the dissolution and disarming of the militias to enable the legitimate Lebanese Government to spread its authority over all Lebanon's territories and to struggle to liberate southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

We are happy that Lebanon has begun to regain its health and to move toward national accord, with Syria's continued assistance to the legitimate authority, in order to achieve the final goal of restoring the unity of Lebanon—territory, people, and affiliation to the Arab nation.

Al-Shar', U.S. Congressman Discuss Mideast

JN1112175690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Wayne Owen, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, in the presence of the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. They discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and ways to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. They also reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis.

Khaddam Meets Congressman

JN1112195190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 11 Dec (SANA)—At 1700 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Wayne Owen, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian. Talks centered on the situation in the Gulf and the various possibilities. They also had identical views on the need to implement Security Council Resolutions.

Afghanistan

Decree Pardoning Anti-State Activities

LD1112213990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The Presidency Press Office has reported to us that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has assented, in line with paragraph two of Article 75 of the Constitution, to the resolution of the Wolasi Jerga on legislative Decree 38—dated 16 January 1990—of the Council of Ministers on pardoning people who join the national reconciliation policy. The decree was approved in eight articles by the Wolasi Jerga at its session on 24 September and by the senate at its session on 18 November.

The decree on the pardon of those who join in national reconciliation: The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan issues the following legislative decree in line with Article 104 of the Constitution:

Article One: This decree is issued in respect of those people who join the national reconciliation policy with the aim of the complete implementation of national reconciliation, ensuring a peaceful life—in consideration of objective realities and accepted traditions, and with respect to the UN charter and the international declaration of human rights—and promoting the active participation of the compatriots in political and socioeconomic life.

Article Two: Criminal prosecution against crimes committed by the following people are dropped:

1. Those people who voluntarily abandon armed activities against the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and turn their weapons over to the state organs.

2. Those people illegally involved in anti-state activities against the Republic of Afghanistan in association with anti-state organizations; provided that they voluntarily give up anti-state activities individually or in groups and come over to the state organs.

3. Members of the armed forces and other citizens of the country who have joined the enemy for various reasons, and fled the country or abandoned their duty or service, provided that they come over to the state organs.

Article Three: 1. Natural and complimentary sentences on the people mentioned in article two of this decree shall also be remitted.

2. The consequences of resignation or abandonment of duty or service enshrined in other legislative documents do not apply to the people mentioned in article two of this decree. They have the right to hold office when they come over to the state organs. If the person who rejoins the state was a soldier or a non-commissioned officer, provided that he reports to his unit, his punishment will be remitted and he will resume his duty; and his previous term of service will be counted.

Article Four:

1. People mentioned in Article Two of this decree are only considered obliged to compensate for damage if they have misappropriated, destroyed or taken illegal possession of public goods or funds.

2. Compensation for damage shall be assessed in line with law by the relevant organs and shall be ordered by a competent court of law.

3. When the personal property of members of the armed forces cannot compensate for damage they have caused, the rest of the money will be deducted from their salary every month by instalments equivalent to 20 percent of their salaries. If people in this category are not paid salaries, the provision of paragraph four of this article shall apply to them.

4. When the personal property of other persons fails to compensate for damage, measures shall be taken in line with the provisions of the law on redemption of state arrears.

Article Five:

1. Those people who, after coming over to the state organs, hand over their weapons, ammunition, explosives, goods, and other equipment to the security organs will thus be accounted in exchange for the weapons, ammunition, explosives, goods and other combat equipment which they previously appropriated, destroyed, or illegally obtained.

2. When the value of public goods and property which were appropriated, destroyed or illegally obtained is more than the goods handed over, they are obliged to pay the price of the remainder.

3. When weapons, ammunition, explosives and other combat equipment are the property of the persons, action will be taken in line with the provisions of Decree 204 dated 9 October 1987 issued by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, published in Official Gazette No. 654, concerning giving authority to purchase weapons and ammunition from those units, groups, and individuals who cease combat activities.

Article Six: People mentioned in this decree can only benefit once from the privileges herein enshrined.

Article Seven: This decree does not prevent private persons' suits and does not hinder the rights of other persons.

Article eight: 1. This decree shall be enforced as from the date it receives presidential assent and shall be published in the official gazette.

2. With the enforcement of this decree the following decrees shall be considered abrogated: 1) Decree 240 of the Revolutionary Council dated 18 June 1981, published in Official Gazette No. 476; 2) Presidential Decree No. 156 dated 6 May 1988 published in Official Gazette No. 668; 3) Other provisions of contravening decrees.

Bangladesh

Opposition Rejects Ershad Exile; Dhaka Protests

BK1112143290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 11 (AFP)—Trade unionists, journalists and activists took to the streets here Tuesday demanding the prosecution of former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad as the opposition called for him to be barred from leaving the country.

"He must not be allowed to leave the country, he must stand trial," said opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed at a meeting with journalists at her home a week to the day since Mr. Ershad stepped down.

The opposition has demanded that Mr. Ershad and his "cronies" be tried, their assets appropriated by the state and their bank accounts at home and abroad seized.

The renewed street rallies came as interim President Shahabuddin Ahmed met with top military officers in Dhaka's military cantonment, where Mr. Ershad, 60, has been living under "protective custody" since last Tuesday.

Official reports of the meeting said Mr. Ahmed asked the military to round up all illegal weapons in the country to ensure peaceful elections within the next three months.

However the reports made no mention of whether Mr. Ershad's fate had been discussed at the meeting, at which the Armed Forces pledged their cooperation with the interim government.

The impatient mood of the half dozen large street protests, one staged by the Dhaka journalists union and another by the powerful Workers and Employees Unity Council (SKOP), was in sharp contrast to the victory celebrations of the past week, observers said.

The journalists' union Tuesday demanded immediate repeal of the hated Special Powers Act, which Mr. Ahmed had promised in his maiden speech to the nation Friday would be repealed "soon."

They said the law had quashed freedom of the press and was an instrument of "autocratic regimes."

"The country now has a people's government and we do not see any reason to continue with the act," one union leader said.

The act allows arrests without trial, and journalists have been among its major victims.

The Sammilita Peshajibi Samannai Parishad (Professional Group Coordination Council) called on the government Tuesday to arrest Mr. Ershad and his associates and put them on trial.

"Victory of the people over autocracy will not be complete if former dictator ershad and his stooges were not tried immediately," the Parishad leaders said.

Faiz Ahmed, a leading journalist, warned that if Mr. Ershad was not dislodged from his residence at the Dhaka Cantonment Military Barracks people would march towards the district to "snatch him."

The coordinating committee of Bangladesh's three major alliances said processions and streetcorner meetings were to take place here Wednesday and throughout the country Thursday, to mark a week since the transfer of power and demand Mr. Ershad's prosecution.

The seven-party alliance headed by Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Sheikh Hasina's eight-party grouping under the banner of the Awami League and the five-party leftist grouping with a rotating leadership were all set to take part in the rallies.

Ershad Arrested, Moved Out of Residence

BK1212085490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 12 (AFP)—Police Wednesday arrested Bangladesh's ousted president Hussain Mohammad Ershad and moved him out of Dhaka's military cantonment area under heavy army and police guard into a civilian house, witnesses said.

Mr. Ershad was served the detention order under the 1974 Special Powers Act in his cantonment house on orders from the interim government, Special Branch police said.

He was then driven out in convoy with his wife and young son in a white Toyota sedan surrounded by troops and armed police vehicles.

No immediate official announcement on the arrest or the move was made.

The former president, wearing an off-white safari suit, looked gloomy as the few reporters present at the entrance to his new residence tried to draw his attention.

However he appeared through the tinted window of the car to nod in acknowedgement as the car entered the driveway at 1:30 P.M. local time (0730 GMT).

His wife, Begum Raushan Ershad, and son Saad Ershad sat next to him, but were not clearly visible because of the tinted glass.

The government-owned white two-storied house, once the home of the British high commissioner (ambassador), is opposite the British high commission building.

Witnesses said it was in the process of being hastily refurbished and that Mr. Ershad's bedroom, hung with flowered drapes, had been prepared on the top floor.

Security guards chased an AFP reporter and photographer out of the house before the ousted president's arrival, saying it was off-limits to everyone except officials.

New carpets, furniture and air-conditioners were being hastily fitted and at least 100 armed police surrounded the house.

The troops also took up position, but it was not immediately clear if they would continue to guard the house.

Mr. Ershad's arrest and removal from the safety and privileges of the cantonment area has been a major demand of the opposition since he was toppled last week by massive demonstrations.

They want the former president to stand trial on charges of abuse of power and corruption and his bank accounts at home and abroad seized, along with those of his wife and associates.

Arrest of Former Ershad Minister Reported

BK1212003690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1826 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 11 (AFP)—Police Tuesday put Mahmudul Hasan, home minister under ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, under house arrest as Bangladeshis returned angrily to the streets to demand that Mr. Ershad himself be brought to trial.

The arrest of Mr. Hasan, a retired major general, was the first of an Ershad associate since the president stepped down in the face of mass protests against his rule on December 4.

No official announcement was made but a local police official and witnesses said an extra police contingent of some 25 men was posted coup in 1982, was under protective custody in the Dhaka military cantonment. [sentence as received] Most of his top party and government associates had fled their homes fearing retribution.

The opposition has accused them of corruption, abuse of power and, in Mr. Ershad's case, politically motivated killings over the past eight years.

The vacated home of Mr. Ershad's vice president was firebombed late Monday.

The powerful All Party Students Unity (APSU), which was at the forefront of the seven-week-long protests that toppled Mr. Ershad last week, said Monday it was considering trying to storm Mr. Ershad's cantonment home.

However Tuesday, APSU leaders said that instead they would hold demonstrations on campuses across the country Wednesday to press old journalists.

Professional organisations, including the Supreme Court Bar Association and The professional group coordinating council, journalists, smaller political parties and trade unions Monday and Tuesday added their voices to the swelling call for Mr. Ershad's arrest.

Interim President Shahabuddin Ahmed has said that he will refer the matter to his newly appointed advisory council if the demands for Mr. Ershad's arrest become overwhelming.

The opposition has called on its activists to continue demonstrations in Dhaka Wednesday and have called for countrywide rallies Thursday, which will mark one week since the ousted president handed over power to Mr. Ahmed.

Soviet, Norwegian Envoys Meet Sheikh Hasina

BK1212010690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The Soviet ambassador, V.S. Smirnov, called on Awami League President and 15-party alliance chief Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka today. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

The envoy of Norway, [name indistinct], also called on Sheikh Hasina and discussed matters of mutual interest.

India

Minister Opposes Use of Force in Gulf Crisis

BK1112162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] India has made it clear that it does not believe in the use force in resolving any dispute, particularly in the Gulf. New Delhi is of the view that the U.S. troops should be withdrawn from the region and a climate of trust is created among the nations there to resolve the issue peacefully. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, while addressing the consultative committee of members of parliament attached to his ministry in New Delhi today. New Delhi is of the view that a nonaligned initiative should be launched only when it is feasible as there are different perceptions on the issue among some members. Mr. V.C. Shukla also told the members that India does not believe that the linking of the Iraqi withdrawal with any other issue in the region will help resolve the problem.

The external affairs minister expressed New Delhi's concern on the condition of all Tamils, including Muslims, in Sri Lanka and said the ongoing dialogue between Sri Lankan government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] may lead to a solution of the problem. He told the members the question of sending Indian troops to either Sri Lanka or the Gulf does not arise.

Janata Dal Hails Developments in Bangladesh

BK0712165690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] The Janata Dal has welcomed the recent developments in Bangladesh. A party spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that these developments indicate resurgence of democratic fast forces in Bangladesh [as heard].

Commentary Examines Ershad's Rise, Fall

BK1112152390 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Dec 90

[S.D. Sen commentary: "The Change in Bangladesh"]

[Text] The fall of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh from power may appear rather sudden. This seasoned soldier statesman has faced and overcome more violent and widespread agitations than what one saw in the last couple of months. His decision to give up, therefore, may be somewhat intriguing. (?Of this region), Ershad showed no weariness of being in power, and from statements that he made it appeared he was genuinely convinced that his tenure had witnessed unprecedented economic growth in the country. Nobody may dispute the basic facts of a certain economic development and even an apparent political stability. But it is important to remember that President Ershad has been at the helm of affairs in Bangladesh for nearly nine years, nearly half of the life of the young republic born in 1971.

The three and a half years that the founder father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, ruled the country had been in a shambles, first by a year of civil war that disrupted life at all levels, and then by devastating floods. Mujib's successor, General Ziaur Rahman, brought about a measure of stability and laid the foundation for a system with the hallmark of promoting a military bureaucracy combine and building up a rural constituency.

General Ershad, the Army chief under President Zia, waited for the system to stabilize before striking at his mentor and assumed power in a bloodless coup. Since he took office in 1982, General Ershad did not have to face a challenge from the armed forces. By distributing benefits to the men in uniform he kept the forces happy while missing no opportunity to accentuate the differences between his principal political rivals—the Awami League of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] founded by General Ziaur Rahman. The inheritors of the legacy of these two leaders, Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia, are ideologically at the two ends of a pendulum. It was not very difficult for President Ershad to keep Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia leading the two main opposition alliances at bay. All he had to do was assume a centrist position. Such a strategy paid General Ershad rich dividends.

It goes to Mrs. Zia's credit that she consistently opposed General Ershad's parleys, refuting to add her party's weight to lend credibility to parliamentary or presidential elections that President Ershad organized. Sheikh Hasina once took part in both these elections only to accuse the General of rigging and vowed to boycott all elections organized with the General as president. Having burnt her boats, Sheikh Hasina realized finally that her stubborn refusal to politically cooperate with President Ershad was the best way to isolate him.

The Awami League's new strategy seemed to work, for the BNP was already determined to withhold all cooperation from President Ershad. This solidarity apparently encouraged the professionals, who are unfailingly in the vanguard of all political agitations in Bangladesh. They are to be found in the universities of Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Chittagong and among the high school and university students apart from lawyers and doctors. There is also some circumstantial evidence that the agitation picked up momentum because of a tacit support if negative from the armed forces. [sentence as heard] Reports about discontent among sections of the armed forces because of senior-level promotions and distribution of benefits had been coming for some time. The timing of the agitation culminating in the stepping down of General Ershad should not surprise anyone who is familiar with the way political agitations are organized in Bangladesh.

With the induction of chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as acting president and the disolution of Parliament, the agitation for establishing people's power has completed one major phase. Under Mr. Ahmed, a parliamentary election should give the country a Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] which is sovereign in the true sense. This has been the major demand of the Awami League and the BNP, as also the left parties.

Mongolian Official Meets Commerce Minister

BK1212103890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The process of transformation of Mongolia into a free market economy from the next year can give a substantial boost in trade between India and Mongolia. This was stated by the Mongolian minister for national development, Mr. Batsuuri, when he called on the commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, in New Delhi yesterday. Apart from trade, Mr. Batsuuri suggested that India should also invest in Mongolia. Dr. Swamy assured that India will welcome [word indistinct] in economic cooperation between the two countries.

Australian High Commissioner on Trade Prospects

BK1112022890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The volume of Indo-Australian bilateral trade has gone up by over 200 percent to reach 864 million Australian dollars in 1989-90. The Australian high commissioner to India, Mr. David Evans, while addressing the Indian Merchants' Chamber in Bombay, spoke of

Australian perceptions of commercial opportunities in the country. Computer software from India which is known for its international standard has great scope in Australia, he said.

Deputy Petroleum Minister Gets Additional Duties

BK0812092690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] The union deputy minister for petroleum and chemicals, Mr. Jay Prakash, is also to be the deputy minister for communications. This was announced by a Rashtrapati Bahvan [President House] communique today.

Minister Rules Out Petroleum Price Increase

BK1012164990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The union minister for petroleum and chemicals, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, has ruled out any possibility of increase in the prices of petroleum products. He said the Gulf surcharge levied on petroleum products by the previous government is being reviewed and the matter has been taken up with the Finance Ministry also. Talking to newsmen in Allahabad today, Mr. Malaviya said all efforts are being made to ensure adequate availability of diesel to farmers during the current rabi [spring crop] season.

Minister Announces Energy Conservation Plans

BK1212042690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The government today announced various measures for energy conservation in view of the present energy crisis. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the energy minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh Kalvi, said that about one crore pump sets will be modernized and redesigned to save 25-30 percent of the energy. Steps will be taken to update the coal mining techniques and the entire industrial system. In the domestic sector stress will be laid on energy efficient lighting. Mr. Kalvi said 14 December is being observed as the national energy conservation day to create mass awareness about it.

Minister Says National Plan May Be Cut

BK1212043690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The deputy chairman of the planning commission, Mr. Mohan Dharia, has ruled out any plan holiday but hinted at the possible cut in the size of the eighth plan in view of the mounting deficit. He was speaking to newsmen soon after receiving charge of the office in New Delhi today. Mr. Dharia said a fresh look at the approach to the eighth plan has been necessitated because of various developments like the Gulf crisis and the difficult balance of payments. Mr. Dharia said the exercise for the annual plans of the states and the central ministries will be completed by 15 January and the final plan document will be ready by March for the approval of the National Development Council.

Shekhar on Punjab Issue, Other Disturbances

BK1112163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that the government does not want to use force to resolve the Punjab situation. But made it clear that it will not yield to the threat of bullets. Addressing a massive farmers rally at Sisauli in Western Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Chandra Shekhar made it clear that the government will not permit the division of the country on the basis of caste and religion. He cautioned the people to remain vigilant against such fissiparous tendencies which the forces inimical to India are trying to take advantage. He said the country is passing through a critical time and sought people's cooperation in dealing with the situation in building a new India. The prime minister said instead of indulging in mutual bickering on religion, people should focus attention on the challenges on the economic front. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is resolved to provide a better deal to the poor and bridge the rural-urban divide. He appealed to the people of the urban areas to do their best for the welfare of the rural people in a spirit of sacrifice.

Referring to the package of measures announced by the Uttar Pradesh chief minister for the farmers, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the center will provide assistance to fulfill the promises, particularly waiving the land revenue in the areas affected by natural calamities this year. [passage omitted]

Judicial Probe of Communal Violence Demanded

BK1112153890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded a judicial inquiry into the recent communal violence in Gujarat, UP [Uttar Pradesh], and Andhra Pradesh. In a statement in New Delhi, the party general secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, has demanded due compensation to the victims and complete restoration of law and order.

Premier Cautions Against Divisive Trends

BK1112130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has cautioned the people to be vigilant against fissiparous tendencies which will weaken the country's unity. Addressing a rally at Sisauli in Uttar Pradesh this afternoon, he regretted that certain elements are trying to divide the country in the name of religion and caste and forces inimical to India are trying to take advantage of the situation. He called upon the people to extend their full cooperation to the government in its efforts to resolve various problems and build a new India. The rally was organized by the Bharatiya Kisan [Indian farmers] Union.

The prime minister referred to the hardships of farmers and rural poor and said the government is resolved to provide them a better deal. He appealed to the people of urban areas to do their bit for the welfare of the rural people with a spirit of sacrifice.

New Government, Police Officials Announced

BK1112131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. T.N. Seshan, presently a member of the Planning Commission, has been appointed as the chief election commissioner. This was announced officially in New Delhi today. Mr. Seshan is expected to take over the new assignment tomorrow.

Mr. Vijay Karan, commissioner of Delhi Police, has been appointed as director of the CBI [Central Bureau of Intelligence]. He will be succeeded by Mr. Arun Bhagat who is presently with the NSG [National Security Guard].

Other changes in the police setup are: Mr. M.K. Narayan, presently chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee and secretary of the National Security Council, will be the director of Intelligence Bureau. Mr. R.P. Joshi, presently director of Intelligence Bureau, will be the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee and secretary of the National Security Council.

Rajiv Gandhi's Threat to Premier Assessed

BK0912041890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 90 p 6

[By D.K. Joshi from New Delhi]

[Text] The new Prime Minister of India, Chandra Shekhar, is in the unenviable position of one who has power without responsibility. He is burdened with all the intractable problems left behind by his predecessor V.P. Singh while any day Rajiv Gandhi can pull the rug from under his feet.

Ghandhi, as leader of the Congress (I) Party, with the largest number of seats in the Lower House, can declare that Shekhar is incapable of running India and that only a scion of the Nehru dynasty can bring the nation on to an even keel.

In other words, Gandhi, who was prime minister from 1984 to 1989, could be in the first phase of his comeback trail. In less than a year he has re-entered the political power game, this time as prompter reading the political lines to the new Prime Minister.

Shekhar, leader of the breakaway faction of the Janata Dal, with only 58 seats in the 525-seat Lower House, leads what is by its very nature a mini-minority government. It cannot give hope of political stability. Gandhi, who has refused to take over as Prime Minister for the time being, is bound to ask Shekhar to vacate the driver's seat when he finds the road ahead less bumpy.

Quite unexpectedly, the three pre-requisites for generating the right atmosphere for Gandhi's return to power—Singh's removal as prime minister, a split in the Janata Dal and no snap general election—have been fulfilled.

When Singh announced a few months ago that he intended to implement the long-shelved Mandel Commission recommendations reserving 27 percent of jobs in central government for backward castes and then took a firm stand against the rightist Hindus, he seemed to become a formidable political force.

It was reasonably certain that he would go for a snap election by resisting the attempts by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to rouse fundamentalist emotions over the construction of Ram temple on the site where Bari mosque stands.

He would thus seek a popular verdict on his twin slogans of social justice and secularism, convert his minority into a majority, secure legitimacy to rule India and get rid of the ideologically incompatible BJP as a partner in government.

For Gandhi division of the Janata Dal was essential. The solid phalanx of backward castes and minority votes needed to be splintered. The scheduled castes are estimated to make up 52 percent of electorate and Singh had become a symbol of them.

Many leaders like Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav, who had agitated to secure a political place for the backward castes, joined the Shekhar bandwagon.

Gandhi did not want a snap election because he knew both Janata Dal and the BJP had emotive issues to swing the electorate.

From now onwards political developments may not be as smooth as Gandhi and his party men wish. Shekhar is not a simple socialist, but an adept manipulator.

He has the extra advantage of personal contacts with a large number of political workers. And what should concern Gandhi is the fact that Shekhar was in Congress for a long time and has a personal rapport with many senior Congress leaders.

Shekhar knows his inherent weakness. Dependence on Congress, against which he campaigned during the 1989 general election, will severely damage his credibility unless he acquires charisma. Besides, he cannot trust Gandhi, who will be supporting him only as an intermediate stage to grabbing back power for Congress.

Shekhar will use his position as Prime Minister to forge a political alliance with those Congress leaders who do not like Gandhi's arbitrary and dictatorial style. He is on close terms with Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar, who is in constant fear of Gandhi's prejudice against him.

Shekhar starts with the advantage of having the backing of five chief minnisters. Three belong to his breakaway Janata Dal—socialist Yadav of Uttar Pradesh, Chimanbhai Patel of Gujarat and Hukam Singh of Haryana. The other two are Pawar of Congress and Rajasthan's Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who, though belonging to the BJP, is personally close to Shekhar.

An entirely different scenario would come about if Shekhar and Gandhi calculated that Singh's Janata Dal and the BJP are too formidable to grapple with singlehanded. They may cooperate to decimate their enemies first and this may help to build a democratically operating centrist force.

The speed of Gandhi's final assault to capture power will largely depend on the social, economic and political situation in India in the coming months and the manner in which Shekhar tackles the law and order problems and the creeping economic crisis.

Curfew in Kanpur After Violent Incidents

BK1012131990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was imposed in parts of Kanpur Town today following some violent incidents there. PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] reports that one person was killed and 10 were injured. The agency quotes the superintendent of police saying that the Army has been alerted. The authorities have asked the people to remain calm and ignore rumors.

In Aligarh, bomb blasts and sniping were reported today in some parts of the curfew-bound city. An official spokesman said the death toll in the past three days has gone up to 40. Intensive police patrolling is continuing in the affected areas. The Army is continuing to assist the district administration in controlling the situation.

The situation in Faizabad and Ayodhya continues to be peaceful. The satyagraha [passive protest] program passed off peacefully on the fifth day today with about 450 kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers], including women, courting arrest. The arrested persons have been sent to Basti.

Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Situation Updated

BK1112161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, two persons were killed in the fresh violent incidents today in the curfew-bound Aligarh city. An official spokesman told newsmen in Lucknow this evening that sporadic incidents of arson and brickbating have also been reported from some localities. Intensive patrolling by paramilitary forces is continuing and strict vigil is being maintained over the situation. Army jawans [soldiers] are assisting the civil administration in maintaining peace in the sensitive areas. Teaching at the Aligarh Muslim University has been suspended. However, students can continue to stay in the hostel.

In Kanpur, two more police station areas have been brought under curfew following violent incidents. The district magistrate told our correspondent that the situation is tense, but under control. The district administration has ordered closure of all government offices, banks and educational institutions in the city tomorrow also.

In Meerut, night curfew will continue in all the 13 police circles of the city as a precautionary measure. The situation in the (Ganj Dhundwara) town in Etah District is gradually returning to normal. The district administration has asked people to deposit their arms to the nearest police station. The day curfew has been lifted from Badayun town. Patrolling however is continuing in the affected area.

In Andhra Pradesh, the overall law and order situation in the old city of Hyderabad is under control and by and large peaceful except for three minor incidents reported from Secunderabad. Two companies of the Tamil Nadu Police arrived in Hyderabad today to assist the local police. Two companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] from Delhi already reached the city last night. The civil supplies authorities have made elaborate arrangements to supply rice and other essential commodities in the troubled areas.

Kanpur 'Tense;' Flag March in Ahmadabad

BK1212132090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Kanpur is tense. Fresh incidents of violence have been reported from a few places. Some shops were set on fire last night. A 12-year-old boy has been shot dead in Swarupnagar locality, talking the death toll to seven. Forty-two persons have been injured. House-to-house searches are on. Over 200 persons have been arrested. Our Kanpur correspondent reports that the Army staged a flag march today in the sensitive areas.

In Aligarh, incidents of arson and firing have been reported from the curfew-bound localities of the city. One person died in the police firing. The Army is assisting the civil authorities in maintaining peace. Contingents of paramilitary forces had been posted at strategic points and constant vigil is on in (Ganj Dundwara) town of Etah District.

The situation in Fairzabad and Ayodhya continues to be peaceful. Over 1,500 kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] courted arrest today. Mr. Rudra Singh, MP [member of parliament], was among those courted arrest. However, patrolling at all the sensitive points in Ayodhya is continuing. Night curfew hours have been extended.

In Gujarat, the Army staged a flag march in the sensitive areas of Ahmadabad city this afternoon. The chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, told newsmen at Gandhinagar that the state government has asked the center for two more companies of Border Security Force and border wing home guards.

Situation in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat Updated

BK1212101890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, curfew continues today without any relaxation in all the 31 police station areas of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The police were forced to open fire three places in Hyderabad resulting in the killing of one person and injuring two last night. The city police commissioner told our Hyderabad correspondent that two more persons were killed in fresh stabbing incidents.

An assistant commissioner of police was shot dead by a police constable on duty in Hyderabad early this morning. The police commissioner described the act of the police constable as (?satyr) and added that this is nothing to do with the prevailing situation.

In Gujarat, the army has been asked to standby following large-scale violence in Ahmadabad city. The city police commissioner told our Ahmadabad correspondent that two companies of the border security force have been deployed to assist the local police in the trouble-torn areas of the city. An extensive combing operation is being undertaken to seize illegal arms. Security arrangements have been made and patrolling intensified. One person was stabbed to death this morning. The death toll has risen to five during the last 24 hours. Indefinite curfew has been extended to the Saraspur police station areas beside other six police stations.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to ban public screening of all provocative video cassettes to the state. This was decided at a high-evel meeting held last evening by the chief minister, Chimanbhai Patel, with senior officials convened to review the law and order situation in the state. He has warned that stern action will be taken against those indulging in violence.

MP Demands Ouster of Andhra Pradesh Chief

BK1112153490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The President of the Indian Union Muslim League, Mr. Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, MP [member of parliament], has urged the Congress-I to immediately replace the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. M. Chenna Reddy, following the continuing violence in Hyderabad. In a statement, Mr. Sait requested the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar to visit the disturbed areas of Hyderabad, Aligarh, Ahmadabad, and Kanpur.

'Group' Clashes in Hyderabad Leave 13 Dead

BK0712170790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, 13 persons were killed and 24 injured in fresh clashes between two groups of people in the old city area of Hyderabad today [past communal clashes in Hyderabad have been between Hindus and Muslims]. An indefinite curfew has been imposed from 2000 [1430 GMT] this evening in the entire old city area covering 24 police stations.

A senior police official told our Hyderabad correspondent that police had to open fire at two places, injuring three persons. Patrolling in the affected areas has been intensified. The situation is reported to be tense but under control.

Army Asked To Maintain Order in Hyderabad

BK0912130690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Army has been asked to assist the civil administration to maintain law and order in the old city area of Hyderabad. The state chief secretary told our Hyderabad correspondent a short while ago that seven columns of the Army will be deployed. The local police will be attached to each column in different places in the city which witnessed violent group [Hindu-Muslim] clashes during the last three days leaving 63 people killed.

The situation in the old city is reported to be still tense. Six persons were killed in group clashes today and 28 injured, including 10 in police firing. The police had to resort to firing at five places to disperse violent groups. The curfew is continuing in 30 police station areas of the old city. Group clashes have also spread to the neighboring Ranga Reddy District following which curfew was clamped in 18 villages. According to the collector, two persons have been killed in the district. The chief secretary said the state civil supplies department will arrange door-to-door supply of essential commodities in different disturbed localities in a phased manner. The rounding up of anti-social elements is continuing. The state government has already ordered a judicial inquiry into the recent incidents by a sitting high court judge.

Meanwhile, the state minister for animal husbandry, Mr. N. Srinivasan Reddy, has resigned from the Chenna Reddy ministry in protest against the law and order situation in Hyderabad. In his resignation letter to the chief minister today, Mr. Srinivasan Reddy said he cannot be a party to bad decisions. He urged the chief minister to step down in the best interests of the Congress-I Party.

Police Fire on Stone-Throwing Mob in Ahmadabad

BK1112134290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] In Gujarat, two persons were injured in Ahmadabad City when the police opened fire to disperse a mob indulged in heavy brickbatting this afternoon. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Panch Pipri Police Chowki [post] and Basant Raja Police Chowki areas under the Gaikwad police station. The situation is reported to be tense.

468 Assam Militants Arrested Up To 7 Dec

BK0712163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In Assam, the security forces have so far apprehended 468 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists since the imposition of president's rule and promulgation of the Disturbed Area Act in the state.

Briefing newsmen at Guwahati, the adviser to the state governor, Mr. P.P. Srivastav, said that security forces have recovered 200 dummy rifles used for training purposes along with 20 bags of rice and some incriminating documents.

Meanwhile, six decomposed bodies out of 16 recovered from the Lakhipathar area have been identified.

Goa State Chief Minister, Cabinet Resign

BK1012093090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The Goa chief minister, Dr. Luis Barbosa, has resigned. He submitted the resignation of his eight-month-old PDF [People's Democratic Front] coalition ministry to the governor, Mr. Khurshid Alam Khan, in Panaji this morning. The special session of the assembly convened for the chief minister to seek a vote of confidence today has adjourned sine die. The speaker, Professor (Sirshak), announced in the house that this has been done as Dr. Babrbosa resigned before the start of the assembly.

As already reported, the Congress Democratic Front consisting of the Goa People's Party, the Congress-I, and a faction of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party [MGP] has been formed. The front has elected the Congress-I legislature party leader, Dr. Wilfred D'Souza, as its leader. Dr. D'Souza and the MGP leader, Mr. Ramakant Khalap, met the governor separately today. Later, talking to newsmen, Dr. D'Souza said that the governor has asked him and Mr. Khalap to produce a list of supporting MLA's [members of legislative assembly]. Mr. Khalap told reporters that he has conveyed to the governor that his party, being the largest single party in the assembly, should be invited to form the new government. He said that a case of disqualification of members will be initiated against the two MGP MLA's who violated the party whip by abstaining themselves from the house. Our Panaji correspondent understands that Dr. D'Souza and Mr. Khalap will again meet the governor today with the list of their supporting MLA's.

Punjab Akali Dal Leader Released From Jail

BK1012131790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The Punjab government today released the leader of the Akali Dal-Mann, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann. He was arrested by the police some time back and was lodged in Burail Jail near Chandigarh.

Iran

President on U.S. 'Illegitimate Interests' in Gulf

NC1112160490 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11 (AFP)—Sudan's military leader, Umar al-Bashir, met here Tuesday with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, an encounter seen as a bid to improve bilateral relations that turned sour after the junta took power in Khartoum in June 1989.

The talks dealt with the situation in the Gulf and the presence in the region of foreign troops, according to Tehran Radio.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that Iran was committed to its relations with the Third World, particularly with Islamic states, and said it was ready "to share the experiences of its struggle against aggression with the oppressed countries of the world."

He renewed Iranian calls for "an unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces," which deployed in the Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2.

Such forces, led by the United States, had come to the Gulf "to secure their own illegitimate interests", he charged.

"If the countries of the region had opposed Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, we would not have the presence of these forces today," according to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Brigadier-General al-Bashir, who arrived here Monday on a three-day visit, said Sudan and Iran "held identical views on most questions" and stressed that his government wanted to see the removal of foreign troops as soon as possible.

Relations between Tehran and Khartoum deteriorated after the general came to power. Sudan recalled its ambassador here in protest at a Tehran television commentary that said the junta's policy toward applying sharia, or Islamic law, was "ambiguous."

The strain in relations served to bolster ties between Sudan and Iraq, Iran's enemy in the Gulf war.

But the Gulf crisis and the visit here in early October of an influential member of the Junta, Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, initiated a thaw in previously frosty ties.

Iran on October 4 freed 22 Sudanese prisoners of war who had been captured while fighting alongside Iraq in the eight-year Gulf war.

"The current visit of the Sudanese leader will further pave the way for Islamic solidarity between the peoples of the two countries," commented the English-language Tehran Times on Tuesday.

Holds Talks With Al-Bashir

LD1112160790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The first round of talks between the Islamic presidents of Iran and Sudan took place this morning in the presidential office. In this meeting, first Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, welcoming Mr. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and the highranking delegation of his country, stressed the expansion of ties between the two Islamic countries. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted: We are interested in putting our facilities and experience at the disposal of Islamic countries—especially needy and deprived African countries like Sudan. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] under the auspices of prolonged struggle against world arrogance, and unrelenting effort for reconstruction, has acquired worthwhile experiences and is willing to put this experience at the disposal of Islamic countries.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the Persian Gulf's critical state, pointed out: The establishment of security in the Persian Gulf and an attempt to find a fundamental solution to prevent a devastating war which will cause the utmost damage to the Muslims, is one of the main duties of the regional and Muslim states. The president of our country pointed out: The prevalent condition in the region makes us duty bound to endeavor to find a fundamental solution to the crisis and this calamity must be averted as soon as possible with the cooperation of the regional countries.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from the region and added: Foreign forces have come to the region to stabilize their illegitimate interests. If the regional states had prevented Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, we would not now be witnessing the presence of so much military force in the region.

The president considered the increase of Zionist immigration to occupied Palestine and the oppression and aggression of the usurper Zionist government against the Muslim nation of Palestine to be interdependent with the Persian Gulf crisis. He said: Unfortunately world arrogance and the hegemonist imperialist forces are realizing their illegitimate aims by exploiting the confused and tense state of affairs. All these are signs that make the cooperation of the Islamic countries for the speedy resolution of the crisis necessary.

Then, Mr. Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council of Sudan, expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome of the IRI officials. He said: Delaying the establishment of communication bridges between Sudan and Iran will result in great losses. He added: We believe that the IRI, by adopting independent policies, has furnished an exalted and civilized example of an Islamic state in this critical region of the world. He said: The IRI, as an Islamic country, enjoys a pioneering and prominent status in the world. We are determined to make use of the worthwhile experiences of Iran in our government structure, in the political, economic, and other fields.

The chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council said that: We diligently endeavor to guide the nation and government of Sudan on the basis of purity and piety. He added: The two Islamic states of Iran and Sudan have the same viewpoints on most subjects and we hope to create a strong foundation for the expansion of ties in all fields between the two Islamic countries.

Mr Hasan al-Bashir confirmed the fundamental stances of the IRI regarding the Persian Gulf crisis and stressed: This crisis must be resolved by the states of the Persian Gulf region and foreign forces must leave the area as soon as possible. The chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council also pointed out: The two Muslim nations of Iran and Sudan have the same ideals concerning the Palestine issue and freeing Holy Jerusalem.

In the meeting, attended by the first vice-president and the ministers of foreign affairs, Islamic culture and guidance, education and training, agriculture and reconstruction jihad of our country, as well as the Sudanese minister of foreign affairs, agriculture, irrigation, education, housing and commerce along with several officials of the two countries, it was decided to investigate the grounds for expansion of ties between the two countries by setting up political, cultural, and economic committees and by technical and military cooperation.

Velayati, Sudanese Foreign Minister Discuss Gulf

LD1112172990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] At this afternoon's meeting between Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul and Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, latest developments in the region and other issues of mutual interest were discussed and reviewed.

At the meeting the Sudanese foreign minister expressed gladness about the Sudanese delegation's presence in Iran and hoped for further expansion of mutual ties. He recounted various aspects of the plots hatched by enemies of Sudan in aiding and abetting the rebels in the south of that country. He said their motive was to put pressure on Muslims and on the sovereignty of Islam in Sudan.

Referring to the Persian Gulf developments, he described the negative effects of the occupation on Sudan.

At the meeting, while declaring our country's readiness to improve relations with Sudan, concerning the situation in the region Mr. Velayati said: We believe the region's problem should be solved by regional countries and the Islamic world. We oppose the presence of foreign forces in the region and believe that the solution to the problem lies in Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and union among Muslims to oust foreign forces from the region. [Tehran Domestic in Persian at 1630 GMT on 11 December carries the following summary of Velayati's remarks on foreign forces: "Mr. Velayati added: The presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region is the result of Iraq's mistake in occupying Kuwait. It is necessary for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait so that the foreigners will no longer have an excuse, and Islamic forces can be mobilized for the liberation of holy Jerusalem."]

He added: Islamic countries hoping for Islam's sovereignty could struggle against Israel and strive to rid Palestine of Zionist occupation through unity and solidarity.

He said: We condemn the rebels in the south of Sudan and those who help them. We support the territorial integrity and independence of Muslim countries, including Sudan.

Velayati Meets Libyan Islamic Call Leader

LD1112173490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The problems of the Islamic world and the crisis in the Persian Gulf region were discussed in Tehran in the meeting between Mr. Ahmad al-Sharif, head of the Islamic Call Association of Libya [Jam'iyyat-e Da'wat-e Eslami], and his accompanying delegation and Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in this meeting Mr. Ahmad al-Sharif said: The problems of the world of Islam should be solved by the Muslims themselves.

Mr. Velayati, referring to the convening of the Islamic conference on Palestine in Tehran and the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] about the world of Islam, said:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been founded upon Islam and has come into being for the sake of the revival of Islamic laws and Islamic values, and so far she has played a major role in confronting the enemies of Islam. Islamic countries have also come to realize that Islam, not nationalist leanings [qowmiyyat gera'i] is the means for the salvation of Muslims.

Mr. Velayati added: The presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region is the result of Iraq's mistake in occupying Kuwait. It is necessary for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait so that the foreigners will no longer have an excuse, and Islamic forces can be mobilized for the liberation of holy Jerusalem.

According to the same report, in this meeting Mr. Ibrahim Shukri from Egypt, referring to the fact that the problems of the Muslims should be solved by the Muslims themselves, free from nationalism [qowmiyyat], said: The Iraqi war against Islamic Iran was a mistake, and the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq was another mistake. It is necessary that the countries which committed mistakes against the Islamic revolution in the past now make amends. Also Samir Gowsha, the representative from the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine, Hamas, referring to the importance of the convening of the conference on Palestine in Tehran, said: The Islamic revolution of Iran has played and continues to play an important role in the resurgence of the Islamic world.

Leaves for Turkey

LD1212101690 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a political delegation left here for Ankara Wednesday [12 December] morning.

The visit is taking place in continuation of Iran's efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Persian Gulf crisis.

During the two-day official visit, Velayati is to meet with the Turkish president, foreign minister and other high-ranking officials and discuss promotion of bilateral ties as well as international and regional issues, the Persian Gulf crisis in particular.

Paper on Velayati Meeting With Gulf Counterparts

NC0712123190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran, at the (P)GCC and the Persian Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, is going to meet his (P)GCC [Persian Gulf Cooperation Council counterparts at their insistance in Muscat, Oman in December. This was announced by him on Sunday as he saw off his Omani counterpart Yusuf Bin 'Alawi at the Tehran Mehrabad International airport. 'Alawi was in Tehran on a one-day official visit and held talks with high-ranking Iranian officials on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf as well as on mutual relations.

The foreign minister of Iran previously met with (P)GCC foreign ministers in September when they called on him in New York but it was more of a ceremonial nature than a serious session for taking important decisions.

Good and friendly relations that Tehran and Muscat shared, both during the Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988) and after it, require the officials of the two countries to occasionally exchange views on regional developmens. The presence of the Iranian foreign minister in the (P)GCC meeting in Muscat next month is of particular significance in the wake of the escalating tensions in the Persian Gulf sparked by the August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

But what still remains a problem is relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran on the one hand and Saudi Arabia as the pivot of the (P)GCC. The two countries do not maintain diplomatic relations and a final solution to the annual Hajj question has not yet been worked out. These two problems overshadow the forthcoming joint meeting in Muscat.

Another point that Iranian Foreign Ministry officials need to address, is to clarify that there is a 'specified line' between its improving relations with Iraq and the current crisis in the region. In other words, (P)GCC states should not be allowed to interpret Iran's participation in the Muscat conference out of its enmity with Baghdad or that it takes the presence of foreign states in the Persian Gulf for granted. Today careful diplomacy is needed so that improving relations with Baghdad are maintained and at the same time, old problems between Iran and the (P)GCC can be settled. This course would be an essential step towards the fulfillment of strategic goal of the Islamic Republic that the security of the Persian Gulf should be preserved by the state of the region.

Commentary Views Implications of Resolution 678

NC0912210690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0605 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Excerpts] With the expansion of political developments in the region as well as in Europe and America after the approval of UN Security Council Resolution 678, Baghdad has also intensified its political moves and diplomatic maneuvers.

In this regard, Saddam asked the United States to affirm that it would begin military operations before 25 March, as the last date specified by the Security Council for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is 15 January. In fact, the Iraqi president seems inclined to use the time factor for combating political actions and reactions, as this would enable him to better plan any preemptive moves in the face of expanding Western programs.

Of course, for the same reason, even the West is seeking to intensify its actions in order to pave a favorable and smooth path for attaining its programs. [passage omitted]

At present, the U.S. military presence in the region is going through its final stages, and the West has been able to consolidate its military presence in Saudi Arabia, as well as in the Persian Gulf. Also, Washington has been able to establish a political-military axis of its allies in the region, and this in itself will be able to assist the White House to implement its long-term plans in the region.

Similarly, the control over the direction of the crisis has provided the United States with the possibility of keeping the steering wheel in its own hands, while at the same time having its European allies and the Soviet Union present in the regional conflict. These three specific points can pave the way for the White House's programs, and the Bush government is seeking to use this factor to capitalize on the opportunity provided by Resolution 678.

Of course, in his recent interview, the Iraqi president proposed that French representatives should also be present during the talks. In fact, this suggestion is based on the fact that one European ally of Washington should be present so that the United States would not be able to capitalize on any interval in the talks in the later stages. On the other hand, the presence of France can also smooth the path for greater Western European activity in the regional conflict. [passage omitted]

It is extremely possible that in the course of the next few weeks the region will witness many intensive political negotiations and that the outcome of these moves and reactions will be quite unpredictable. Along with the Western political moves on the regional level, actions and reactions are currently under way in the Arab world as well for resolving the crisis.

The news agencies have reported joint efforts on the part of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia for a plan for resolving the Persian Gulf crisis amicably. [passage omitted]

According to knowledgeable sources in Cairo, if Iraq does not respond to this plan, the forces of the above-mentioned three countries will join the multinational forces in the event a military operation is launched against Iraq.

In any case, the overall political moves and reactions which are currently under way in the West and the region are the outcome of the approval of Security Council Resolution 678, which is assuming greater dimensions each day, and we should look for the consequences of these moves in the near future.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Turkey

WA1212134590

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Velayati to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Turkish President Ozal, Prime Minister Akbulut, and Foreign Minister Alptemocin, please see the Turkey section of the 12 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Paper Warns UK Against Creating 'New Crisis'

LD1212112990 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—A Persian daily Wednesday recommended the new British Government not to repeat blunders of the previous government in its relations with the world of Islam.

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' was commenting in its editorial on fresh efforts by the British Government to launch a new round of propaganda campaign on Rushdie affair, author of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses'.

Referring to the former British Government's mistake in linking future of its ties with the world of Islam, Iran especially, to the fate of Salman Rushdie, it said that the new British Government is apparently being tempted to repeat the same erroneous policies.

The daily warned the British Government to keep itself out of the issue before an action is seen necessary.

Criticizing the British Government for acting contrary to its commitments vis-a-vis the world of Islam, the daily stressed that the Rushdie case will be over only after the divine decree is executed.

It warned that the Britons may create new crisis in their relations with the world of Islam, whose dimensions would not be predictable.

It assured London statesmen that this time there will be no way out of the crisis and asked whether they were ready to pay such a heavy price for a man who is sentenced to death.

It stressed that London officials have realized that it is not to their interest to encounter the Islamic world and the Islamic Republic of Iran particularly, through their improper policies.

Meanwhile, the 15th of Khordad (June 5) Foundation, a relief and charity organization, in a statement Tuesday said that the $1 million award to be given to one who carries out the death sentence is still valid.

Combatant Clergy Confirm Rushdie Death Sentence

LD0812221990 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—The combatant 'ulema (ruhaniyun-e mobarez) today reiterated that the late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious edict] ordering execution of British apostate Salman Rushdie is "a divine decree", which cannot be revised or repealed by anyone at any time.

The statement was released in response to the remarks of the sentenced Indian-born writer of the blasphemous novel 'Satanic Verses', in an interview sponsored by British politicians recently. Rushdie who went in hiding following the imam's fatwa in February 1989, claimed in the interview that his problems with Muslims have come to an end, and the book Satanic Verses belonged to the past.

However, he was far from apologetic for his slandering of the holy Koran and the prophets, which act according to all the schools of Islamic jurisprudence is punishable by "death".

The combatant 'ulema also rapped foreign radios trying to link the resumption of Tehran-London ties with Rushdie's remarks, and said, diplomatic relations cannot influence the implementation of the decree against the apostate.

The combatant 'ulema also called for the immediate release of Iranian student Mehrdad Kowkabi, jailed on baseless charges in London, and asked the Foreign Ministry to make efforts to resolve the issue.

Paper Proposes Azeri-Armenian Mediation

LD0912211490 Tehran IRNA in English 1912 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—A Persian daily today called on Soviet Muslim and Armenian dignitaries to bury the hatchet and instead sow the seeds of friendship and cooperation and safeguard the freedom.

"In view of various reasons, the Islamic Republic has the credentials and is in a position to take the first step towards such a humanitarian measure," the morning daily, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in its editorial.

"Mr. (Mikhail) Gorbachev and his aides who have initiated quite a few amazing changes on the Soviet (political) scene are unlikely not to welcome this humanitarian gesture (from Iran) especially since restoration of order and calm and peaceful settlement of disputes are among their foremost goals," it said.

The daily suggested that the long Iran-Soviet frontier should be called 'the frontier of cooperation', and assured that Islamic Iran which pursues an independent, anti-American and anti-arrogance policy in the world arena, is not after any material interests in this affair.

"Proper attention to the lofty goals of this gesture would not only result in an honourable peace among the peoples of those region but would also act as a deterrent to the U.S. against exploiting its relations with the Soviet Union," the daily made it clear.

In today's world it said, all favour peaceful settlements and what is certain is that the continuation of any clash would get nowhere.

"The (Soviet) Muslims and Armenians would understandably come to a conclusion that why should they give free rein to the unbridled horse of hostility? Hasn't the time come for them to try other options?" JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI asked.

Blaming the clashes between Soviet Azerbaijani Muslims and Armenians on colonial powers, the daily "with the presence of the colonial powers, differences are turned into disputes...and disputes into massacres."

The daily said the West has a double-standard approach to the issue and saw the Azeri-Armenian clashes serving their interests.

"It was clear that world Muslims particularly the brave people of Iran who share many cultural, religious.....and family ties with the Soviet Azeris could not remain silent on the issue..." it said.

It was after this stage that "Turkey, especially some segments in its ruling body who are proud of being a NATO member and feel shame at their Asian and Muslim origin, posed as defenders of the Azeris on behalf of the West and the U.S. in particular, it added.

"No doubt that the Muslim people of Turkey like Muslims elsewhere in the world are saddened by the sufferings of the Azeris...but the self-assumed role of defenders by these segments who aspire to pose as Europeans and who are shameful for membership of such and such economic organizations has another story," it added.

At this stage of the game, the U.S. and the West began to back the Armenians on one hand and the freemasonary and pro-NATO circles in Turkey in a vicious move voiced support for the Azeris on the other, but it were the people who were victimized and burned as fuel to fan the flames of Muslim-Armenian clashes, it said.

The daily noted "certainly, true Muslims of the world will not keep mum on the massacre of Muslim Azeris and the true followers of the prophet Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) will support Armenians. But at a time that Communism has collapsed and Western capitalists have gone down the abyss of corruption, will it be wise for the followers of divine religions to turn against each other?"

*Underemployment, Unemployment Noticeably Up

91AS0259F London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] The malfunctions in the economy of the Islamic Republic and the slow movement in the nation's wheels of production have added continuously to the number of unemployed people in the country, and this social problem is bringing society closer to the danger of destruction.

Recently, during a national conference on expanding the employment of invalids, an official in the social studies group in the Plan and Budget Organization announced that unemployment has increased significantly in the country, and has now reached 14.2 percent. The official said: Currently 3.5 million people in the country are underemployed or are secretly unemployed. In the year 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] this figure was only 980,000. The official in the social studies group in the Plan and Budget Organization stressed that the problem of increased unemployment will have a negative effect on the work pattern if proper planning is not done.

Sixty percent of society's underemployed and hidden unemployed are between 15 and 30. He added: The great part of these hidden jobs or unemployed arise from the stagnation of auxiliary agricultural industries in the villages.

In part of his talk, Mohammad 'Ali Zadeh announced that 60 to 80 percent of the farmers do not have land or enough land to farm, and the thing that makes rural people want to stay in the villages is the auxiliary agricultural employment. Unfortunately these industries, including textiles, handicrafts, hides, and foodstuffs, have been greatly damaged in the past few years, and along with that the economy has expanded little, and efforts for the mines have also decreased. These factors have significantly increased unemployment in society, so that this figure has reached 14.2 percent of the working population.

The official told those attending the seminar: With the increase in the growth of society, the services, trade, and sales sector have had false growth, and in view of the statistics for the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], they are 7.5 times the actual employment in society, while statistics for the year 1355 show that the sales sector was only 1.5 times the size of real and production employment.

The official in the social studies group in the Plan and Budget Organization announced to those attending the seminar that between the years 1355 and 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] the production, agriculture, industry, and mining sectors did not have a positive change, and as long as there is no positive growth in production, the service sector will not have a foundation and a basis in view of the growth of society. He added: Profitability in the production sectors has collapsed, and along with that, in view of the growth of society, and especially the growth of urban society and the profitability of the sales and false market transaction sectors have increased, and most active manpower is concentrated in this sector.

Noting the slow growth of the private sector and the striking growth of government sector activities, Mohammad 'Ali Zadeh said: In recent years, the private sector has had no role in the nation's economic evolution, and 85 percent of these 1.2 million new jobs that have been created in the last 10 to 14 years are government jobs in centers for education, administration, health care and treatment, and other things.

Continuing, the Plan and Budget Organization expert emphasized that investment must be guided from deviated sectors to the essential sectors so it will lead to an increase in national wealth and incomes. He added: The growth of society and their under-utilization poses many dangers to society, especially since 45.5 percent of society is made up of people under 15 years of age.

*Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delegates Rebuilding to People

91AS0259E London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Following the unrest among the earthquake victims of Gilan province, to assure the earthquake victims, who had even destroyed a bridge in the area in protest of the Islamic government's inefficiency, Hashemi-Rafsanjani went to this area. During his trip to the earthquake-stricken villages in the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan, he admitted that the Islamic government has not been able to solve the problems of the earthquake victims. He asked the earthquake victims to show more patience and perseverance, and again referred to the earthquake as "events and afflictions that are a divine test."

Concerning the amount of the damage, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

We must build about 7 million square meters of buildings to restore former conditions.

So far the Islamic Republic has not built homes in any of the earthquake-stricken areas for the earthquake victims, and whatever was built were temporary shelters.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that instead of rebuilding the earthquake-stricken areas, his government has decided to make construction materials available to the earthquake victims, but he regarded the reconstruction of these areas as the responsibility of the people themselves, absolving his government of the responsibility. He said: God willing, we hope the people will pass through this phase with patience and tranquility, and carefully rebuild this damaged portion, and we in turn will give them every kind of support.

The report on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to the earthquake-stricken areas shows that not even the basic needs of the people of the area, such as potable water, electricity, and roads, have been rebuilt.

*War Invalids Fail To Receive Needed Attention

91AS0259D London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] On 28 November, a war invalid, exasperated by the indifference of the Islamic Republic's officials and by having no place to go, poured gasoline over himself and burned to death in front of the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Self-Sacrificing Devotees building.

Naser Miardanlu, with a 30 percent disability of the limbs, had come to Tehran hoping to get a loan from the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificing Devotees, which has a budget of billions of tomans.

At his final appeal to the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificing Devotees, he received a negative answer and a severe reaction from the officials of this "revolutionary organization!", and in his extreme despair and agitation, he burned himself at the door of the foundation building. The people passing on the street at that time put out the fire and took him to the hospital, but the treatment was ineffective.

Naser Miardanlu left behind a letter, and according to the newspaper ABRAR, the government's officials are not disclosing its contents.

Self-immolation (which has little precedent in Iran) shows the degree of indifference to the condition of war invalids and the invalids' despair of life.

At the same time, it was announced in Tehran that there are now 1.6 million invalids in the country, only 10,000 of whom are covered by the National Health Organization.

Dr. Yarigar Ravesh, head of the National Health Organization, warned that if there is not serious and real planning to employ invalids and improve their lot, much damage will be done to the health of invalids and society.

In addition to not having an efficient organization to help teach and employ 1.6 million invalids, the officials of the Islamic Republic regime actually attach little importance to the war invalids because they cannot play any role in propaganda for the regime, and most of them even harshly protest the Islamic government's indifference. Yet they try at every ceremony to attract the support of the families of martyrs and the released prisoners of war.

We note that one day after the report of this war invalid's self-immolation was published, the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificing Devotees claimed he was mentally ill, and, contrary to rumor, that he left no letter behind.

*Amnesty Declared for Absent Conscripts

91AS0259C London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Brigadier General Salahi, the head of the Islamic Republic's obligatory military service office, announced that because of the end of the war with Iraq and the change in the nation's conditions, the severe penalties passed by the Supreme War Support Council for failing to serve one's military obligation in the war with Iraq have been changed in favor of those eligible for service, and the second law intensifying penalties for those avoiding service has been completely eliminated.

Brigadier General Salahi said: The cancellation of the law intensifying penalties for those avoiding service was implemented on 13 October. He stressed: Henceforth only one law will be in force to punish those avoiding obligatory army service, and it requires three additional months service for those who voluntarily turn themselves in, and six months additional service for those who are arrested.

*Basiji Reportedly Killed by Angry Public

91AS0259A London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] In a Tehran park, a Hezbollahi basiji [mobilization member], who harassed women and girls on the pretext of enjoining evil and combatting improper veiling, was attacked and killed by the public. This is the first time the people have killed a Hezbollahi, in a public place, who was harassing women and girls.

The Islamic Republic regime's news organizations and newspapers did not report this incident. For this reason, the name of the killed basiji, the park where the incident occurred, and whether or not anyone was arrested was not clear.

The regime's news organizations did not report this incident lest the public become exasperated and repeat this incident in society.

During last week's Friday prayers sermon (2 November) Ayatollah Jannati revealed the killing of a basiji who was harassing the people.

Ayatollah Jannati, who was discussing the spread of improper veiling, said that the danger of improper veiling is greater than that of narcotics and spying for foreigners, and referred to the killing of the aforementioned Hezbollahi in a Tehran park; however, he gave no further details.

*Liquid Gas Exported to European Countries

91AS0259O London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] Since it began exporting liquid gas to the Soviet Union (9 April 1990) the Islamic Republic has exported between 6 and 7 million cubic meters to this country per day. This information was given to the media recently by the deputy petroleum minister and the acting director of the National Iranian Gas Company. This official, who had gone to Tabriz to visit several industrial projects, told reporters: Concerning the export of gas, talks are being held with Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Italy, and France through the Petroleum Ministry's International Affairs Office so that in the future, using the trans-Soviet gas pipeline, gas can be exported to these countries. Concerning the gas delivery network in the northwestern part of the country, he said: With the completion of the gas delivery network to the northwestern part of the country, by the end of the year 1370 [20 March 1992] the gas delivery systems to the major cities in the two provinces of East and West Azarbaijan will be ready to use. The Islamic Republic's deputy petroleum minister added: The main gas line in the Mowsum area to the gas delivery network around Lake Urmia will be completed by the end of the year 1370, and at that time the gas delivery systems to the cities of Meshkin Shahr, Ahar, Sarab, Bostan Abad, Khoi, Tasuj, Salmas, and Urmia will also be completed.

Nepal & Bhutan

Four Sections To Leave United Left Front

BK1012164190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] In Nepal, the United Left Front has split. Four of its seven constituents announced their intention to break away from the front today. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that the front is a partner in the interim government along with the Nepali Congress. Both the United Left Front and the Nepali Congress spearheaded the movement for restoration of democracy in Nepal.

Civil Servants Threaten To Strike on 12 Dec

BK1012011690 Hong Kong AFP in English
2149 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 9 (AFP)—More than 170,000 civil servants in Nepal have threatened to strike Wednesday if the government does not increase their wages and improve working conditions, a government official said. The Civil Service Welfare Association wanted civil servants' salaries to be brought into line with employees of state-run corporations, the official from the Nepalese General Administration Ministry said Sunday.

The association also wanted the almost 40 per cent of government workers employed on a temporary basis to be given permanent status, said the official.

The association issued a 20-point memorandum to Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai six weeks ago which also called for civil servants to have the same fringe benefits enjoyed by employees of state-run corporations, the official said.

The association said in a statement some 170,000 members and state corporation employees would mount a "pen-down" strike and paralyse day-to-day administration in and around Kathmandu and members would protest and stage hunger strikes if the government did not respond to its demands by Tuesday. But a source from the premier's office said Mr. Bhattarai had said the Cabinet would take the "sternest action" against the civil servants "if they acted in total disregard of discipline."

The source said it was impossible to increase their salaries "under the current deteriorating economic situation."

Analysts here said 30 years under the partyless panchayat system and rampant corruption had taken a toll on the country's economy. The state-run corporations had performed poorly and the interim government had not been able to privatise them despite pressure from the World Bank and foreign aid donors.

"The public exchequer is shouldering over four billion rupees' (133 million dollars) liability and it is becoming just impossible for it to fulfil its responsibility," said one senior Finance Ministry official.

An average 28 per cent salary hike for the civil service and corporation employees in April had increased annual government expenditures by 1.7 billion rupees (56.6 million dollars), he said.

It had lifted total annual government spending on pensions, wages and other payments to civil servants, corporation workers and the military and police to 6.5 billion rupees (216 million dollars), he said.

Nepal's trade and transit row with India had also cost it two billion rupees from mid-March to the end of June this year, he said. The row cut Nepal's gross domestic product by 1.5 per cent, the Finance Ministry official said.

Agriculture Ministry Purged Over Scandal

*BK0912001490 Hong Kong AFP in English
1842 GMT 8 Dec 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 8 (AFP)—Nepal's minister of agriculture said he had purged the ministry of a number of senior officials because of alleged corruption.

Jhala Nath Khanal, minister for agriculture and forests, said late Saturday he had sacked Agriculture Secretary Akur Narshing Rana and a number of other officials because of their "vested interest in making money."

Mr. Khanal said his subordinates had failed to alert him about a shortfall in chemical fertilizer which he said threatened the winter wheat crop.

He said that all officials who did not conform to the "changed political context should be shunted out of service and be replaced by sincere, efficient and cooperative officials."

Mr. Khanal said Nepal was rushing to import 17,000 tonnes of chemical fertilizer from India and Bangladesh in order to save the winter wheat crop.

The official said the democracy movement which rocked the country earlier in the year, leading to a change in government, and corruption within the ministry had blocked the required import.

Of the total, 12,000 tonnes are being imported from India while 5,000 tonnes of urea are being imported from Bangladesh following hectic negotiations with the Bangladeshi authorities.

Nepal last year imported a total of 55,000 tonnes of chemical fertilizers.

Japan had promised to supply about 25,000 tonnes of chemical fertilizers under a bilateral agreement signed last year but only part of last year's quota arrived just a few months ago "because of the non-cooperative attitude and corrupt mentality" of officials in the ministry, Mr. Khanal said.

Experts have warned that because of the shortage in fertilizer, this year's wheat crop may only amount to half last year's output of 850,000 tonnes.

Indian Premier's Statement on Relations Hailed

*BK1112114490 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL
in English 21 Nov 90 p 4*

[Editorial: "Good Neighborliness"]

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's recent statements about improving his country's relations with its neighbours—and more particularly those to the effect that India will not play a "patronising" role with respect to its neighbours—are entirely welcome. These statements assume particular significance in view of growing feeling of late in various sections in the neighbourhood that New Delhi routinely seeks to play a "big brotherly" role in the region. Even countries outside the South Asia region, including those in the West, have time and again spoken of India's "arm-twisting" policies in some cases while dealing with neighbours. Although Mr. Shekhar has not spoken of such condescending behaviour of India in as many words, inherent in his statements regarding relations with neighbours is an acknowledgement of such a past.

Given its size, human and material resources and level of advancement, India is well placed to play a meaningful role in the region. Its relations with individual neighbours could assume a profitable and cooperative dimension if India works to allay fears and suspicions among its neighbours. Not only would an appreciative and concerned attitude serve well to enhance India's reputation in the region, this would also enable it to play more effectively the role it is seeking in the international arena. The goodwill and support of its neighbours would enable India to contribute its mite to world affairs in a more efficient manner. Being bogged down in stalemates in the region would neither be in the interests of India nor its neighbours.

Mr Shekhar's statements, therefore, have been a source of reassurance to India's neighbours and the latter can sincerely look forward to a new era of cooperation in the region. But all this is true when the message emanating from New Delhi is put into practice. Such good intentions have also been pronounced in the past but they were not all the time abided by, leading to a growing feeling of mistrust among India's neighbours. It is fervently expected that Mr Shekhar's statements will be different and that a truly new chapter will begin in India's ties with its neighbours.

Another important aspect is that statements of good neighbourliness need to find manifestation in a continued fashion. Governments may come and go but India and its neighbours will continue to exist. Therefore, whatever messages of and effort at of good faith are transmitted from New Delhi, they need to be government policy. Good relations can be fostered only on the strong foundation of continuity. It is this continuity that is needed in the promotion of India's bilateral relations with individual neighbouring countries.

Pakistan

Sharif Announces Sindh Development Program

BK1012160990 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[By Habib Khan Ghori]

[Text] Tando Adam, Dec 9—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has announced a Rs [rupees] 10 billion special development and reconstruction programme for Sindh. He said this programme will be in addition to the projects launched by the Federal and the provincial governments for the development of the province.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting on Sunday at Mohammadi Chowk he said that the sense of deprivation of the people of Sindh was due to the policies of the past rulers who created law and order problem and led the nation into economic stagnation. He directed the Sindh government to prepare blueprints for the welfare of the people of Sindh within two months.

He said he was aware that Sindh needs special attention to provide it civic amenities like right to education, health and drinking water not only in the cities but in the rural areas as well.

He said his priorities would be restoration of law and order and opening new avenues for employment by accelerating the pace of development and industrialisation.

He said he wanted to improve the conditions of the 'Haris' for whom he had already announced decision to distribute government lands among them under a three and five marla [measurement equalling 25 yards] scheme.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said he was also aware that mere slogans would not bring about any change. He wanted execution of the projects which would provide land to the tiller, houses to the homeless and jobs to the unemployed.

The Prime Minister hoped the ten billion rupees projects would certainly change the conditions of Sindh.

Main Nawaz Sharif said he would like to see that electricity is available in each and every village of Sindh and one PCO [expansion unknown] was set up in every village. He said he was very fond of the people of Sindh and had more plans for their betterment.

"I want the development of agriculture side by side with industrial progress in the province," he said.

He appealed to the people to strengthen the hands of the Government in removing the sense of deprivation.

He said Jam Sadiq Ali would be able to serve to the people and solve their problems. He also recalled the services rendered by Syed Ghaus Ali Shah and hoped that Jam Mashooq Ali would help in removing the feeling of alienation.

He also announced a grant of Rs 10 million for the development of Tando Adam.

The Prime Minister said he had come to thank the people of Sindh for helping the IJI government at the Centre and in the provinces.

He expressed confidence that in future no Muslim would kill another Muslim in the province.

Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali speaking on the occasion asked the people to raise their hands to show the acceptance of Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister. When they respoonded enthusiastically, Jam told Nawaz Sharif that he had won the referendum. The people of Sindh were with Nawaz, he pointed out.

MQM [Mujahir Qaumi Movement] Vice Chairman Tariq Jawed said he would like to assure the Prime Minister of MQM's full support.

Jam Sadiq Ali referred to the problems of the area and pointed out that during the last two years our crops were damaged.

He also pointed out the unemployment problem among the youths and pleaded for policies which could open avenues of jobs for them.

The Prime Minister who arrived at the venue of the meeting around 4.50 pm with Jam Sadiq Ali, Rana Chander Singh, Lt General (Retd) Majeed Mallik and others, said betters days are ahead for Pakistan.

Mohammad Chowk was filled to capacity and the crowd was spilled over the side roads and streets. The buildings around the chowk were occupied by the viewers. The crowd included all sections of society.

Tando Adam, a city of over one lakh people were a festive look. People from nearby villages started coming in groups since morning. Some of them were holding MQM, NPP [National People's Party] and PML [Pakistan Muslim League] flags and raising slogans in support of the Prime Minister, MQM Chief Altaf Hussain and Jam Sadiq Ali.

The venue of the public meeting was profusely decorated with banners, bunting, photos of the Prime Minister, Chief Minister and MQM Chief. The stage was set up over a buildings of Mohammad Chowk, main commercial centre of the city.

The traders and businessmen closed their business to attend the meeting. The crowd raised slogans of "Sindhi-Mohajir Bhai Bahaj, Sindhi Punjabi, Pathan, Baloch Bhai Bhai, Nawaz Sharif Zindabad, Jarn Sadiq Ali Ziodabad, Naarae Mohajir, Naarai Jam, Jiye Mohajir, Jiye Jam, Jam Nawaz Bhai Bhai."

Our Sukkur Correspondent adds: Association, IJL [Islamic Democratic Alliance], MQM and PDA, [People's Democratic Assembly], called on the Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif at Circuit House on Sunday.

The delegations discussed with the Prime Minister various matters including the local problems and the law and order situation.

The Prime Minister assured the members of the delegations that adequate steps will be taken to solve the problems. He said he had already made some announcements and further steps would be taken in due course.

He said that with the improvement of law and order situation in the province, industries would also develop and unemployment would be overcome to a great extent.

The Prime Minister told the delegations that the Government was alive to the situation of unemployment and said that this would be solved on priority basis.

Talking to the delegation of PDA led by Syed Zafar Ali Shah [Member of National Assembly], the Prime Minister assured them that there would be no political victimisation of the members of the Opposition.

However, he appealed the members of the Opposition to cooperate witht he government in restoring complete normalcy in the province and solving the problems of the people.

Referring to the cases against the Opposition members, the Prime Minister assured that their cases would be heard by the High Court judges.

Shekhar Remarks on Bilateral Ties Criticized

BK0912120990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Matter of Principle"]

[Text] Indian Premier Mr. Chandra Shekhar has taken umbrage at the statement of Pakistan's Prime Minister [PM], Mian Nawaz Sharif, who has unequivocally stated that his government will continue its support of the Kashmir freedom fighters. The Indian PM, who was addressing at a function to mark the 51st founding day of the Central Reserve Police on Thursday, said Mr Nawaz Sharif's statement would adversely affect Indo-Pak relations. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it was correct that Mr. Nawaz Sharif had expressed the desire for friendly relations between Pakistan and India when the two met during the SAARC [South Asian Assocation For Regional Cooperation] summit at Male. Friendly relations between the two countries have always been a priority with every Pakistani Prime Minister and the wish for establishment of better ties has always been thwarted by the intransigence of successive Indian Governments on the question of self-determination for the people of occupied Kashmir in accordance with their aspirations. It has always been India which has been placing obstacles in the way of plebiscite in the occupied territory under UN auspices, as pledged by the first Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Mr Chandra Shekhar should not, therefore, confuse the desire on Mr Nawaz Sharif's part for better relations with any intention of compromising on principle where Kashmir is concerned.

The Indian Premier should not need to be reminded that Kashmir is still part of the UN agenda no withstanding the chicanery practised by successive Indian governments to convert it into a dead issue by holding fake elections to a State "constituent assembly" and apointing puppet Prime Ministers of the State from among those who are willing to sacrifice the aspirations of the Kashmiri people at the altar of self and power. UN resolutions on occupied Kashmir do not cease to have relevance just because India has declared the State an integral part of its entity. The fact that the Kashmiris are up in arms in the occupied territory against Hindu tyranny and suppression, proves that the people of the State do not consider themselves Indian citizens and that the Indian government is making a cruel effort to keep them under its yoke through use of sheer force. Just as communist hegemony is being overthrown in most of the territories under its subjugation, it is only a matter of time before the Indian might crumbles in Kashmir.

In yet another instance of the suppression of India's Muslim minority, the scenario over the issue of the Babari Mosque in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya presents a grim picture. Over the past few days the situation there had calmed down a bit but news reports from across the border indicate that thousands of extremist Hindus are marching on Ayodhya and courting arrest to force the Indian government to bow to their demand for demolishment of the Babari Mosque. It is to be hoped that this is not a result of the possible encouragement given by the Indian government to the Bharatiya Janata Party to press on with its nefarious designs regarding pulling down the mosque, as a reaction to Mian Nawaz Sharif's statement.

Prime Minister Affirms Nuclear Program Stand

BK1112170290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif reiterated that Pakistan will not compromise on its peaceful nuclear program, no matter what price it has to pay for that. He announced that our nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes, but in any case, we will not accept any pressure whatsoever. Addressing a grand public meeting in Karachi this evening, the prime minister said they have been offering generous aid if we give assurance for not developing nuclear weapons, but Pakistan is determined not to take dictates from outside. He said Pakistan is a self-respecting nation and we want to live with honor and will never accept any aid at its cost.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said a new era has ushered in and there will now be a rule of law and justice in the country.

A beginning has been made to make the country self-reliant and with the help of the masses Pakistan will emerge as a strong and prosperous nation. He congratulated the people for the success of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] in the elections and said the days of repression are over and the people are now breathing in an atmosphere of real freedom.

He called upon the opposition to accept their defeat in a graceful manner and cooperate with the government in reconstructing the country. The prime minister asked the people to practise austerity to face the economic difficulties and said our women folk have a significant role to play in living within means. In this context, he asked the people to curtail the use of pan [betel leaf] and tea on which the country has to a spend a huge and precious foreign exchange every year. [passage omitted]

On the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangadesh, the prime minister announced that work was in progress and ishallah [god willing] the results will emerge soon. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Criticizes IJI's 'Victimization Policy'

BK1012010690 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 8—Former Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has said that a particular lobby was trying to run the country under the presidential form of government in the garb of parliamentary democracy.

Speaking at a meeting of party leaders at Niazi House on Sunday, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, who is also Co-Chairman of PPP [Pakistan People's Party], said her party would oppose all such attempts aimed at weakening the parliamentary system and play a vital role in the restoration of Prime Minister's powers as enjoyed under a parliamentary system.

She said her party would also extend support to the Government, despite its political differences to bring down the Eighth Constitutional Amendment.

The meeting was attended by PPP Secretary General Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad, Farooq Leghari, Khawaja Tariq Rahim, Ahmad Saeed Awan and Nawaz Bosal, MNA [member of National Assembly] from Gujrat.

A PPP source said the party co-chairperson severely criticized the victimization policy of the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] government against the poor segments of the society by terminating the employment of those people who had been provided jobs during the PPP government.

She said Islam does not allow that the children of those belonging to the ruling party should be enjoying the luxuries of life but the children of those belonging to opponents should sleep hungry.

"It is unfair to snatch away the bread and butter of thousands of poor people for their only crime that they were appointed by the PPP government," she was reported to have said in the meeting.

She said the people of Pakistan should not have a feeling that they were being ruled by an alien government, and being discriminated on political grounds. She asserted that it was the primary responsibility of the ruling government to provide jobs to the jobless and not to "create unemployment."

She also accused the IJI government of trying to accomodate its own people by sacking those appointed during her tenure. But, she reminded the rulers that such a victimization policy would only create unrest in the country and shatter the faith of the people in democracy and Constitution.

Benazir, the source said, advised the government to utilise its energies for the development of the country instead of spending them on curbing the Opposition.

She asked her party leaders to remain steadfast and bear all the hardships. She reminded the workers that the PPP, inspite of all these odds, would play its role in defending the parliamentary system of the country.

Customs Department Probes Heroin Smuggling

BK0712115790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 6—A team of customs officials headed by the deputy superintendent, Mr Mohammad Badar Munir, has started investigation in heroin smuggling case in which an unidentitied person made an attempt to smuggle heroin abroad through a parcel, booked at GPO [General Post Office] Islamabad, on Dec. 2.

The suspected parcel packet was opened by the customs staff at the GPO in presence of chief postmaster Mr Akbar Baloch on Wednesday and on search 639 grams of heroin was recovered from the jacket and lady purse, kept in the parcel by the alleged sender, Mr Zaher A.

Earlier, on Dec. 2 a notice was sent at the sender's address by the GPO officials, who after receiving no reply till Dec 5, informed the deputy superintendent, in charge customs Foreign post at GPO, Islamabad, to take necessary action.

Besides a case registered under customs act by the customs staff against the alleged accused, the Aabpara had also registered an FIR [First Information Report] under ¾ Hudood [Islamic Punishment for Theft, Robbery, Murder, Adultery and Rape] Ordinance.

An hectic search has been launched jointly by the customs team and the police to trace the culprit.

No arrest was reported till the filing of the story.

Pakistan People's Party Activist Killed

BK1012123990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Dec 90 p 1

[By S.M. Waseem]

[Text] Hyderabad, Dec. 9—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader Dr. Zafar Rajpur was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen Saturday might in Doctors Colony, Jarnshoro.

According to reports, some unidentified armed men knocked at the house of Dr. Zafar Rajpur. On knowing that Dr. Rajpur was not at home they went back and returned after an hour. As Dr. Rajpur came out they fired bursts of Kalashnikov killing him on the spot and escaped from the scene.

Police have registered cases against unknown assassins and are searching for them.

Dr. Zafar Rajpur was an activist of the SPSF [Sindh People's Student Front] and People's Party. Some extremists of a rural based organisation and Rajpur reportedly had some dispute for years over sharing of property and other valuables they had allegedly looted during ethnic strife in the province.